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孔明北伐行

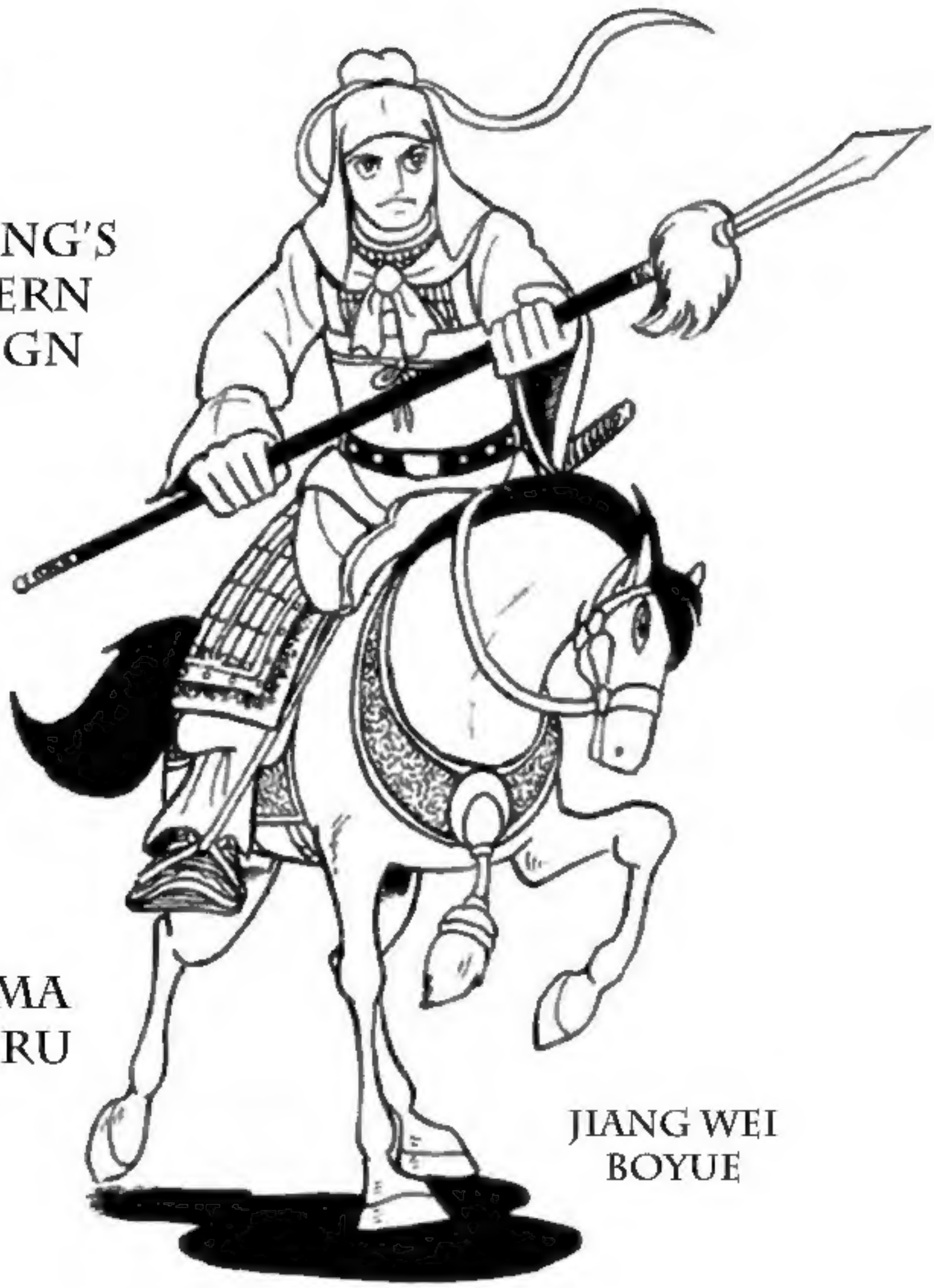
横山光輝

希望コミックス 151

SANGOKUSHI

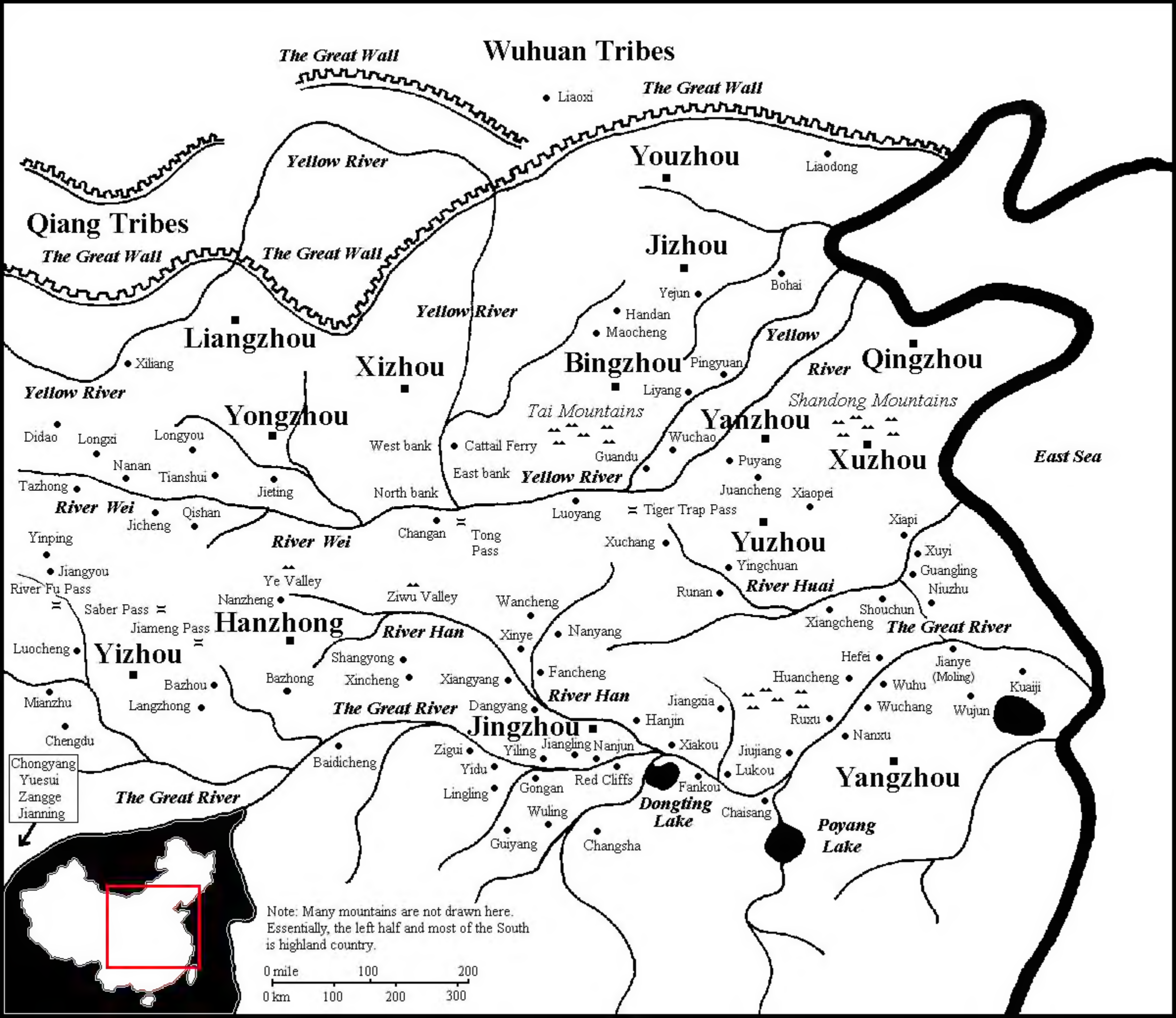
50

KONGMING'S NORTHERN CAMPAIGN



YOKOYAMA MITSUTERU

JIANG WEI BOYUE


Wuhuan Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Liaoxi
Youzhou
Liaodong
Yellow River
Qiang Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Jizhou
Bohai
Yejun
Handan
Maocheng
Yellow River
Liangzhou
Xizhou
Bingzhou
Pingyuan
Yellow River
Qingzhou
Xiliang
Yellow River
Liyang
Shandong Mountains
Tai Mountains
Yongzhou
Yanzhou
Didao
Longxi
Longyou
West bank
Cattail Ferry
Wuchao
Guandu
Xuzhou
East Sea
Nanan
East bank
Yellow River
Puyang
Tianshui
Tazhong
Jieting
North bank
Juancheng
Xiaopei
River Wei
Qishan
Luoyang
Tiger Trap Pass
Jicheng
Changan
Tong Pass
Xiapi
Yuzhou
Yinping
River Wei
Xuchang
Xuyi
Jiangyou
Ye Valley
Yingchuan
Guangling
River Fu Pass
Ziwu Valley
Runan
River Huai
Niuzhu
Saber Pass
Nanzheng
Wancheng
Shouchun
Jiameng Pass
Hanzhong
River Han
Xinye
Nanyang
Xiangcheng
The Great River
Luocheng
Yizhou
Shangyong
Hefei
Jianye (Moling)
Fancheng
Huancheng
Bazhou
Bazhong
Xincheng
Xiangyang
Wuhu
Kuaiji
River Han
Jiangxia
Mianzhu
Langzhong
The Great River
Dangyang
Wuchang
Wujun
Ruxu
Hanjin
Jingzhou
Chengdu
Nanxu
Zigui
Yiling
Jiangling
Nanjun
Xiakou
Jiujiang
Baidicheng
Yidu
Lukou
Yangzhou
Chongyang
Yuesui
Zangge
Jianning
Red Cliffs
Fankou
Gongan
Lingling
Dongting Lake
Chaisang
Wuling
Poyang Lake
Guiyang
Changsha
The Great River
Note: Many mountains are not drawn here.
Essentially, the left half and most of the South
is highland country.
0 mile 100 200
0 km 100 200 300

MAJOR CHARACTERS OF SANGOKUSHI

CAI MAO:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU BIAO, WHO BECAME THE SUPREME ADMIRAL OF WEI'S NAVY WHEN JINGZHOU SURRENDERED TO CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 25, HE IS FRAMED BY ZHOU YU'S PLOT AND THUS EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.

CAO CAO MENGDE:
THE AMBITIOUS AND MACHIAVELLIAN HERO OF SANGOKUSHI. RISES TO BECOME KING OF WEI BUT DECLINES TO BECOME EMPEROR HIMSELF. PASSES AWAY FROM ILLNESS IN VOLUME 42.

CAO HONG:
YOUNGER COUSIN OF CAO CAO AND NOW HIS LOYAL GENERAL.

CAO PI:
ELDEST SON OF CAO CAO. SUCCEEDS TO KING OF WEI AFTER HIS FATHER'S DEATH AND SOON DETHRONES THE LAST HAN EMPEROR TO BECOME AN EMPEROR OF A NEW DYNASTY.

CAO REN:
COUSIN OF CAO CAO AND NOW HIS LOYAL GENERAL. PORTRAYED AS BRAVE BUT HOT-TEMPERED IN THE STORY.

CHENG GONG:
A CITY GUARD CAPTAIN WHO ARRESTED CAO CAO, ONLY TO FREE AND ESCAPE WITH HIM AFTER SYMPATHIZING WITH HIS STORY. HOWEVER, HE LATER DEFECTS TO LU BU AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR. IN VOLUME 14, HE IS EXECUTED ALONG WITH LU BU.

CHENG YU:
IMPORTANT AND LOYAL STRATEGIST SERVING CAO CAO.

CHEN DENG:
THE SON OF CHEN GUI AND FORMERLY TAO QIAN OF XUZHOU'S SUBORDINATE. HE AND HIS FATHER SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL.

CHEN GUI:
FATHER OF CHEN DENG WHO SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL. DESPITE SECRETLY WORKING TOGETHER WITH LIU BEI AGAINST CAO CAO, CAO CAO SPARES HIS LIFE AND ALLOWS HIM TO CONTINUE LIVING IN XUZHOU.

DIAN WEI:
CAO CAO'S PERSONAL BODYGUARD, RENOWNED FOR HIS STRENGTH. HE IS ALSO KNOWN BY THE NICKNAME, "E LAI," IN REFERENCE TO THE GENERAL OF THE SAME NAME WHO SERVED UNDER KING ZHOU OF SHANG. IN VOLUME 12, HE WAS KILLED DURING ZHANG XIU'S PLOT TO KILL CAO CAO.

DIAO CHAN:
A MAID TO WANG YUN, WHO RAISED HER AS HIS OWN DAUGHTER. SHE AND WANG YUN PLOTTED TO DISTANCE LU BU FROM DONG ZHUO BY HAVING HER SEDUCE BOTH MEN. IN VOLUME 8, SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER ACCOMPLISHING HER GOAL.

DONG CHENG:
ELDER STATESMAN OF HAN WHO IS EMPEROR XIAN'S CONFIDANT. EMPEROR XIAN SECRETELY ASKS HIM TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO, WHO NOW RULES THE IMPERIAL COURT AS CHANCELLOR. IN VOLUME 17, HE IS EXECUTED AFTER HIS ASSASSINATION PLOT IS FOUND OUT BY CAO CAO.

DONG ZHUO:
GOVERNOR OF LIANGZHOU WHO LATER SEIZED CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND SEATED HIMSELF AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN, BECOMING AN INFAMOUS TYRANT. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS RIGHT-HAND MAN, LU BU.

EMPRESS HE:
ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HER BEAUTY WAS NOTICED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS AND SHE ROSE TO BECOME THE EMPRESS, UTILIZING RUTHLESS MEANS. HOWEVER, SHE AND HER SON WERE REMOVED FROM POWER AND KILLED BY DONG ZHUO WHEN HE CAME TO POWER.

FA ZHENG:
FORMER SUBJECT OF LIU ZHANG, BUT DEFECTED TO LIU BEI DURING HIS CONQUEST OF SHU. HE IS ONE OF LIU BEI'S KEY STRATEGISTS.

GAN NING:
FORMER-PIRATE WHO IS NOW A FIRECE GENERAL OF WU.

GONGSUN ZAN:
GOVERNOR OF BEIPING, WHO WAGES WAR AGAINST YUAN SHAO FOR KILLING HIS YOUNG BROTHER. IN VOLUME 15, YUAN SHAO'S ARMY CONQUERS BEIPING, CAUSING GONGSUN ZAN TO COMMIT SUICIDE.

GUAN PING:
GUAN YU'S ADOPTED SON AS OF VOLUME 19. SERVES ALONGSIDE HIS FATHER UNTIL THEIR DEATH IN VOLUME 42.

GUAN XING:
GUAN YU'S SECOND SON, WHO BECOMES A PROMINENT SHU OFFICER AFTER HIS FATHER'S DEATH.

GUAN YU YUNCHANG:
SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER TO LIU BEI AND SWORN OLDER BROTHER TO ZHANG FEI. AFTER THE FAILED SIEGE ON FANCHENG, HE IS EVENTUALLY CAUGHT BY WU FORCES AND PROMPTLY EXECUTED IN VOLUME 42.

GUO JIA:
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST AND ADVISOR TO CAO CAO. HE DIES FROM ILLNESS DURING CAO CAO'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE YUAN FAMILY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).

HE JIN:
ORIGINALLY A SIMPLE BUTCHER, HE BECAME A GENERAL WHEN HIS YOUNGER SISTER ROSE TO BECOME EMPRESS HE. HE IS KILLED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS DURING THEIR POWER STRUGGLE IN VOLUME 3.

HUANG GAI:
LOYAL GENERAL OF WU, WHOSE FAMILY HAS SERVED THE SUN FAMILY FOR THREE GENERATIONS.

HUANG ZHONG:
AN ELDERLY WARRIOR GENERAL RENOWNED ESPECIALLY FOR HIS SKILL WITH THE BOW. FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT DEFECTS TO LIU BEI IN VOLUME 28. FALLS IN BATTLE AGAINST WU FORCES IN VOLUME 43.

HUA XIN:
WEI MINISTER WHO RISES TO BECOME CHANCELLOR OF WEI UNDER CAO PI'S REIGN.

JIANG QIN:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH ZHOU TAI, BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR SUN CE'S FATHER, SUN JIAN.

JIA XU:
FORMER STRATEGIST OF ZHANG XIU, WHO PLOTTED A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON CAO CAO, WHICH LEFT DIAN WEI DEAD. AS OF VOLUME 16, HE HAS DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR.

LI DIAN:
SCHOLARLY GENERAL UNDER THE SERVICE OF CAO CAO.

LI RU:
CUNNING ADVISOR TO DONG ZHUO. WITH HIS ADVICE, DONG ZHUO FIRMLY SECURES HIS SEAT AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS KILLED ALONG WITH DONG ZHUO WHEN LU BU BETRAYS THEM.

LIU BIAO:
THE GOVERNOR OF JINGZHOU. HE PASSES AWAY DUE TO SICKNESS IN VOLUME 22 AND THE CONSEQUENT SUCCESSION CRISIS ALLOWS CAO CAO TO TAKE OVER JINGZHOU.

LIU BEI XUANDE:
THE CENTRAL CHARACTER OF SANGOKUSHI. A VIRTUOUS MAN, WHO CLAIMS DESCENT FROM EMPEROR JING OF HAN. HE HAS SWORN AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD WITH GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI. HE BECOMES AN EMPEROR AND ESTABLISHES A SUCCESOR-DYNASTY TO HAN IN VOLUME 43.

LIU FENG:
LIU BEI'S ADOPTED SON. ORIGINALLY THE NEPHEW OF LIU MI, HE WAS ADOPTED UPON FIRST SIGHT BY LIU BEI WHO TOOK A LIKING TO HIM IN VOLUME 21. HE IS UNFORTUNATELY EXECUTED BY LIU BEI IN VOLUME 43 AFTER DENYING AID TO GUAN YU.

LIU QI:
ELDEST SON OF LIU BIAO WHO TEMPORARILY LOSES HIS INHERITANCE OF JINGZHOU DUE TO CAI MAO'S PLOT. IN VOLUME 29, HE PASSES AWAY FROM ILLNESS AND THE RIGHTFUL OWNERSHIP OF JINGZHOU CONTINUES TO BE DEBATED BETWEEN SUN QUAN AND LIU BEI.

LIU ZHANG:
INCOMPETENT RULER OF SHU (ALTERNATIVE NAME FOR YIZHOU). HE SEEKS LIU BEI'S HELP TO FEND OFF ZHANG LU, BUT RELATIONS SOON SOUR AND LIU BEI USURPS HIS RULE OVER SHU. AS OF VOLUME 35, HE IS EXILED TO JINGZHOU.

LU BU:
ALTHOUGH REPUTED TO BE THE STRONGEST WARRIOR, HE IS HOT-HEADED AND RARELY HEEDS WISE ADVICE. IN VOLUME 14, HE WAS BETRAYED BY HIS SUBORDINATES, AND EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.

LU MENG:
FIRECE WU GENERAL, WHO AT LAST CONQUERS JINGZHOU FOR SUN QUAN, CAPTURING GUAN YU IN DOING SO. UNFORTUNATELY DIES TO A SUDDEN ILLNESS AFTER GUAN YU'S EXECUTION IN VOLUME 42, CAUSING SOME TO THINK HE WAS CURSED.

LU SU:
IMPORTANT MILITARY GENERAL AND ADVISOR OF WU.

LU XUN:
TALENTED WU OFFICIAL WHO QUICKLY RISES TO FAVOUR AFTER SUCCESSFULLY PLANNING THE CONQUEST OF JINGZHOU.

MA CHAO:
A FIERCE WARRIOR WHO SEEKS TO AVENGE HIS FATHER MA TENG'S DEATH AT CAO CAO'S HANDS. IN VOLUME 35, HE ENTERS LIU BEI'S SERVICE AND BECOMES ONE OF HIS MOST VALUABLE GENERALS.

MA DAI:
A NEPHEW OF MA CHAO WHO ENTERS LIU BEI'S SERVICE ALONGSIDE HIS UNCLE.

MA LIANG:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS. HE IS THE FOURTH YOUNGEST OF THE FIVE MA BROTHERS, AND IS NOTED FOR HIS INTELLECT AND WHITE EYEBROWS.

MA TENG:
GOVERNOR OF XILIANG AND FATHER OF MA CHAO, WHO SIGNED THE BLOOD-PLEDGE TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 30, HE IS EXECUTED FOR A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT OF CAO CAO.

MENG DA:
FORMER SUBJECT OF LIU ZHANG WHO DEFECTS TO LIU BEI, ALONG WITH HIS GOOD FRIENDS ZHANG SONG AND FA ZHENG. HE LATER DEFECTS TO WEI IN VOLUME 43, AFTER REALIZING HE WOULD BE KILLED IN SHU TO BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR GUAN YU'S DEATH.

MI ZHU:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS.

PANG DE:
FIERCE GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED MA TENG AND THEN MA CHAO. IN VOLUME 36, HE DEFECTS TO CAO CAO'S SERVICE DUE TO A TROUBLED RELATIONSHIP WITH ZHANG LU, THE LORD OF HANZHONG. PERISHES IN THE BATTLE OF FANCHENG AGAINST GUAN YU IN VOLUME 41.

PANG TONG SHIYUAN:
NICKNAMED THE YOUNG PHOENIX (FENGCHU), HE IS A MASTERFUL STRATEGIST SAID TO BE ZHUGE LIANG'S EQUAL. AFTER ENTERING LIU BEI'S SERVICE, HE TRAGICALLY MET AN EARLY DEATH IN SHU WHEN AMBUSHED BY ZHANG REN IN VOLUME 34.

SHUI JING:
HIS REAL NAME IS SIMA HUI BUT HE IS MORE COMMONLY KNOWN BY HIS TAOIST NAME, SHUI JING (MEANING WATER MIRROR). HE IS THE TEACHER OF ZHUGE LIANG, PANG TONG, AND XU SHU.

SUN CE:
ELDEST SON OF SUN JIAN, WHO TURNS THE SUN FAMILY'S FORTUNE AROUND WITH HIS CONQUEST OF THE SOUTH-LANDS. IN VOLUME 19, A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND CONFLICT WITH YU JI CAUSES HIS BODY AND MENTAL HEALTH TO WEAKEN. HE SUCCUMBS TO DEATH SHORTLY AFTER.

SUN JIAN:
THE GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHA WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO. HOWEVER, HIS ALLIES LIU BIAO AND YUAN SHAO TO TURN ON HIM WHEN HE TRIES TO KEEP THE IMPERIAL SEAL FOR HIMSELF. IN VOLUME 7, HE IS KILLED IN BATTLE AGAINST YUAN SHAO.

SUN QIAN:
TRUSTED ADVISOR TO LIU BEI. (HIS ROLE IS MUCH SMALLER IN SANGOKUSHI COMPARED TO THE ORIGINAL NOVEL.)

SUN QUAN:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF SUN CE AND THE CURRENT RULER OF WU, THE SOUTHLANDS OF CHINA.

TAISHI CI:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU YAO BUT DEFECTED TO SUN CE IN VOLUME 11. DURING THE BATTLE OF HEFEI (VOL. 29), HE FALLS PREY TO ZHANG LIAO'S PLAN AND IS KILLED IN BATTLE.

TAO QIAN:
THE KIND GOVERNOR OF XUZHOU WHO ACCIDENTALLY INVOKES CAO CAO'S WRATH WHEN HIS DISLOYAL SUBORDINATE ZHANG KAI KILLS CAO CAO'S FATHER, CAO SONG. UPON HIS DEATH, HE BEQUEATHS XUZHOU TO LIU BEI.

THE TEN ATTENDANTS:
A CORRUPT GROUP OF 10 EUNUCHS WHO WERE THE HIGHEST RANKING MINISTERS OF THE IMPERIAL COURT. THEY WERE KILLED DURING THE POWER STRUGGLE WITH HE JIN IN VOLUME 4.

WANG YUN:
THE MINISTER OF THE MASSES, ONE OF THE 3 HIGHEST RANKING POSTS IN THE IMPERIAL COURT. HE SUCCESSFULLY PLOTS DONG ZHUO'S DOWNFALL USING DIAO CHAN IN VOLUME 8. HOWEVER, HE IS LATER KILLED BY REMNANTS OF DONG ZHUO'S ARMY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).

WEI YAN:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT HAS DEFECTED TO LIU BEI ALONG WITH HUANG ZHONG IN VOLUME 28.

WEN CHOU:
HE AND YANG LIANG ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 18, HE IS AMBUSHED BY CAO CAO'S ARMY AND KILLED BY GUAN YU.

XIAHOU DUN:
TRUSTED GENERAL OF CAO CAO. HE LOST HIS LEFT EYE DURING A BATTLE AGAINST LU BU'S ARMY IN VOLUME 13.

XU CHU:
TRUSTED BODYGUARD OF CAO CAO. ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HE WAS RECRUITED BY CAO CAO WHO WAS IMPRESSED AFTER SEEING XU CHU'S DUEL WITH DIAN WEI.

XU SHU (SHAN FU):
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST WHO STUDIED UNDER SHUI JING. AFTER A BRIEF STINT OF SERVICE TO LIU BEI, HE IS TRICKED INTO COMING TO XUCHANG AND SERVING CAO CAO (VOLUME 21).

XUN YU:
TALENTED ADVISOR TO CA CAO.

XU HUANG:
CALM AND COLLECTED GENERAL UNDER SERVICE TO CAO CAO. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS OF WEI BY CHEN SHOU, AUTHOR OF RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.

YAN LIANG:
HE AND WEN CHOU ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 17, HE WAS KILLED BY GUAN YU WHILE FIGHTING CAO CAO'S ARMY AT BAIMA.

YAN YAN:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU ZHANG BUT DEFECTED TO LIU BEI AFTER HIS CAPTURE AT ZHANG FEI'S HANDS IN VOLUME 34. HE IS NOTED FOR HIS ENERGY DESPITE HIS OLD AGE.

YU JIN:
GENERAL SERVING CAO CAO. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS OF WEI BY CHEN SHOU, AUTHOR OF RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.

YUAN SHAO:
OLDER BROTHER OF YUAN SHU AND THE GOVERNOR OF JIZHOU. AFTER MANY YEARS OF WARRING AGAINST CAO CAO FOR CONTROL OF NORTHERN CHINA, HE AND HIS FAMILY ARE DEFEATED.

YUAN SHU:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF YUAN SHAO AND THE GOVERNOR OF NANYANG. AFTER RECEIVING THE IMPERIAL SEAL FROM SUN CE, HE DECLARES HIMSELF AS THE EMPEROR OF ZHONG DYNASTY. IN VOLUME 15, HE DIES OF THIRST AFTER BEING ON THE RUN FROM LIU BEI AND CAO CAO'S ARMIES.

ZHANG BAO:
ELDEST SON OF ZHANG FEI, WHO RISES TO PROMINENCE AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER.

ZHANG FEI YIDE:
A FIRECE, SHORT-TEMPERED WARRIOR WHO IS THE SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER OF LIU BEI AND GUAN YU. HIS TEMPER EVENTUALLY GETS THE BETTER OF HIM, WHEN HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS SUBORDINATES IN VOLUME 43.

ZHANG LIAO:
ONE OF CAO CAO'S TOP GENERALS. HE WAS FORMERLY LU BU'S SUBORDINATE BUT DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AFTER THE FORMER'S EXECUTION.

ZHANG LU:
THE LEADER OF THE CELESTIAL MASTERS TAOIST MOVEMENT, AND THE RULER OF HANZHONG. IN VOLUME 36, CAO CAO CONQUERS HANZHONG BUT SPARES ZHANG LU.

ZHANG REN:
ONE OF SHU'S MOST CAPABLE GENERALS WHO PLANNED THE AMBUSH THAT KILLED PANG TONG. HE REFUSED TO SERVE LIU BEI UNLIKE MANY OF HIS COMRADES AND WAS THUS EXECUTED WHEN FINALLY CAPTURED AT THE HANDS OF ZHUGE LIANG (VOLUME 35).

ZHANG SONG:
AN ADVISOR TO LIU ZHANG WHO, UPON FAILING TO MAKE AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN CAO CAO AND LIU ZHANG, SOUGHT LIU BEI'S SUPPORT AND SWITCHED HIS ALLEGIANCE. IN VOLUME 34, HE IS EXECUTED WHEN HIS BROTHER REPORTS HIS BETRAYAL TO LIU ZHANG.

ZHANG XIU:
LORD OF WANCHENG WHO ATTEMPTED TO KILL CAO CAO DURING THE BATTLE OF WANCHENG IN VOLUME 12. AFTER YEARS OF CONFLICT AGAINST CAO CAO, HE FINALLY DECIDES TO DEFECT TO CAO CAO IN VOLUME 16.

ZHAO YUN ZILONG:
A FORMER SUBJECT OF YUAN SHAO BUT LATER DEFECTED TO SERVE GONGSUN ZAN. AFTER GONGSUN ZAN'S DEATH, HE BECOMES ONE OF LIU BEI'S MOST TRUSTED GENERALS.

ZHOU TAI:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH JIANG QIN BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR HIS FATHER, SUN JIAN.

ZHANG ZHAO:
ELDER STATESMAN AND SUN QUAN'S TRUSTED ADVISOR. HE ORIGINALLY ENTERED SUN CE'S SERVICE ALONG WITH ZHANG HONG, WITH WHOM HE WAS REFERRED TO AS THE "TWO ZHANGS."

ZHOU CANG:
FORMERLY A YELLOW TURBAN, HE MEETS GUAN YU IN VOLUME 18 AND BECOMES HIS SUBORDINATE. COMMITS SUICIDE AFTER LEARNING GUAN YU WAS EXECUTED IN VOLUME 42.

ZHOU YU GONGJIN:
SWORN BROTHER OF SUN CE, AND ONE OF WU'S TOP MINDS, SERVING AS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DURING THE BATTLE OF THE RED CLIFFS. HE RECEIVES A CRITICAL ARROW-WOUND DURING HIS NANJUN CAMPAIGN (VOL. 27) WHICH HE NEVER FULLY RECOVERS FROM, LEADING TO HIS TRAGIC EARLY DEATH IN VOLUME 30.

ZHUGE LIANG KONGMING:
MASTERFUL STRATEGIST AND FORMER STUDENT OF SHUI JING. IN VOLUME 21, HE YIELDS TO LIU BEI'S PERSISTENCE AND DECIDES TO BECOME HIS SUBJECT.

SANGOKUSHI (ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS)

三国志

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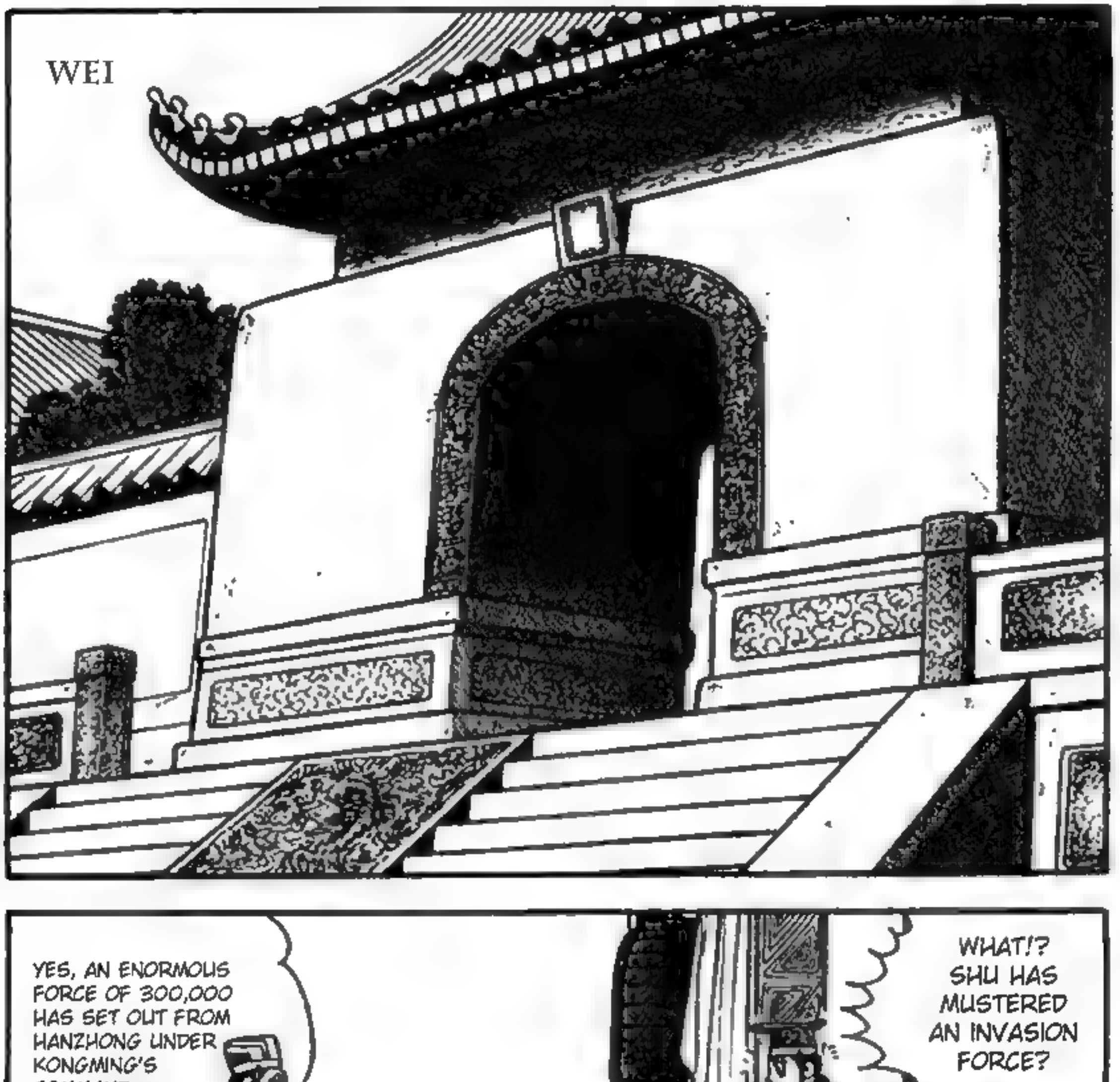
〔月刊『コミックトム』掲載〕

BATTLE AT FENGMING HILLS


WEI
YES, AN ENORMOUS FORCE OF 300,000 HAS SET OUT FROM HANZHONG UNDER KONGMING'S COMMAND.
WHAT!? SHU HAS MUSTERED AN INVASION FORCE?

ALLOW ME, YOUR MAJESTY.

W-WHO CAN FEND OFF THIS FORCE?

MY FATHER, XIAHOU YUAN, FELL IN BATTLE AGAINST HUANG ZHONG DURING THE SHU CONQUEST OF HANZHONG. I WOULD BE AN UNFILIAL SON IF I DID NOT SEEK TO AVENGE MY FATHER'S DEATH SO PLEASE ALLOW ME THE COMMAND, YOUR HIGHNESS.

AH! XIAHOU MAO, YOU WILL VOLUNTEER?

THANK YOU.

WELL SPOKEN! TAKE 200,000 TROOPS OF THE WESTERN FORCES AND DRIVE OFF THE INVADERS.

YES, WANG LANG?

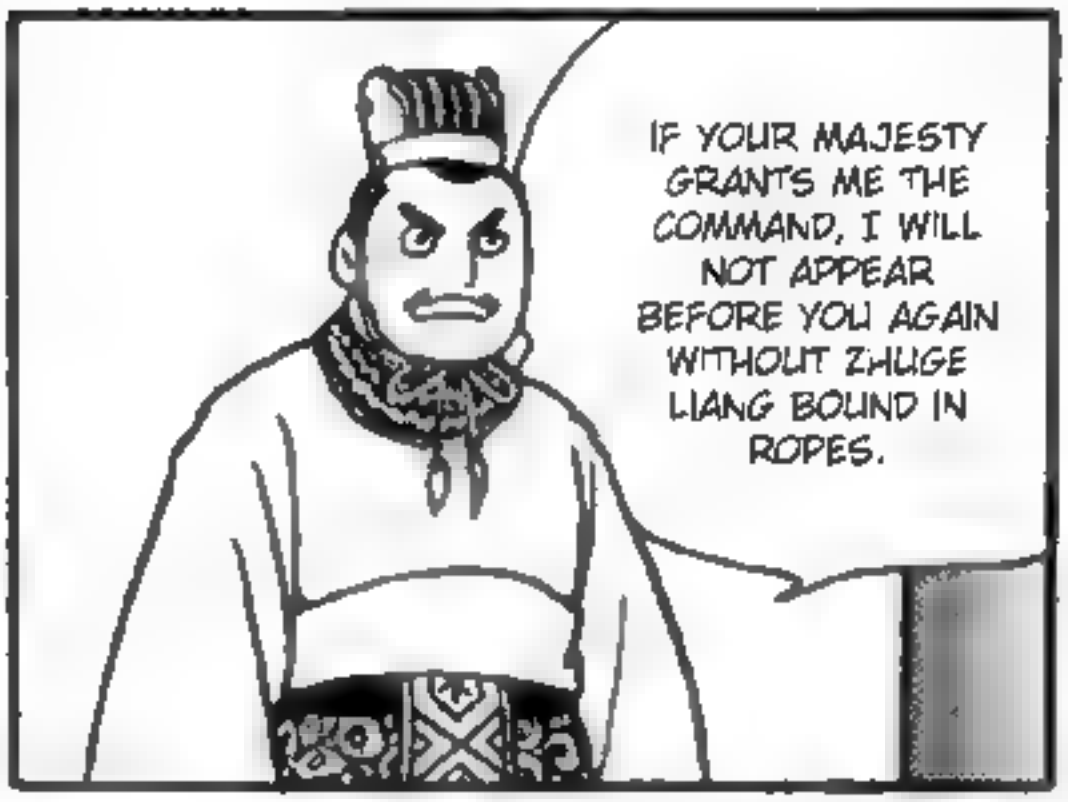
PLEASE WAIT, YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY!

WHAT!?

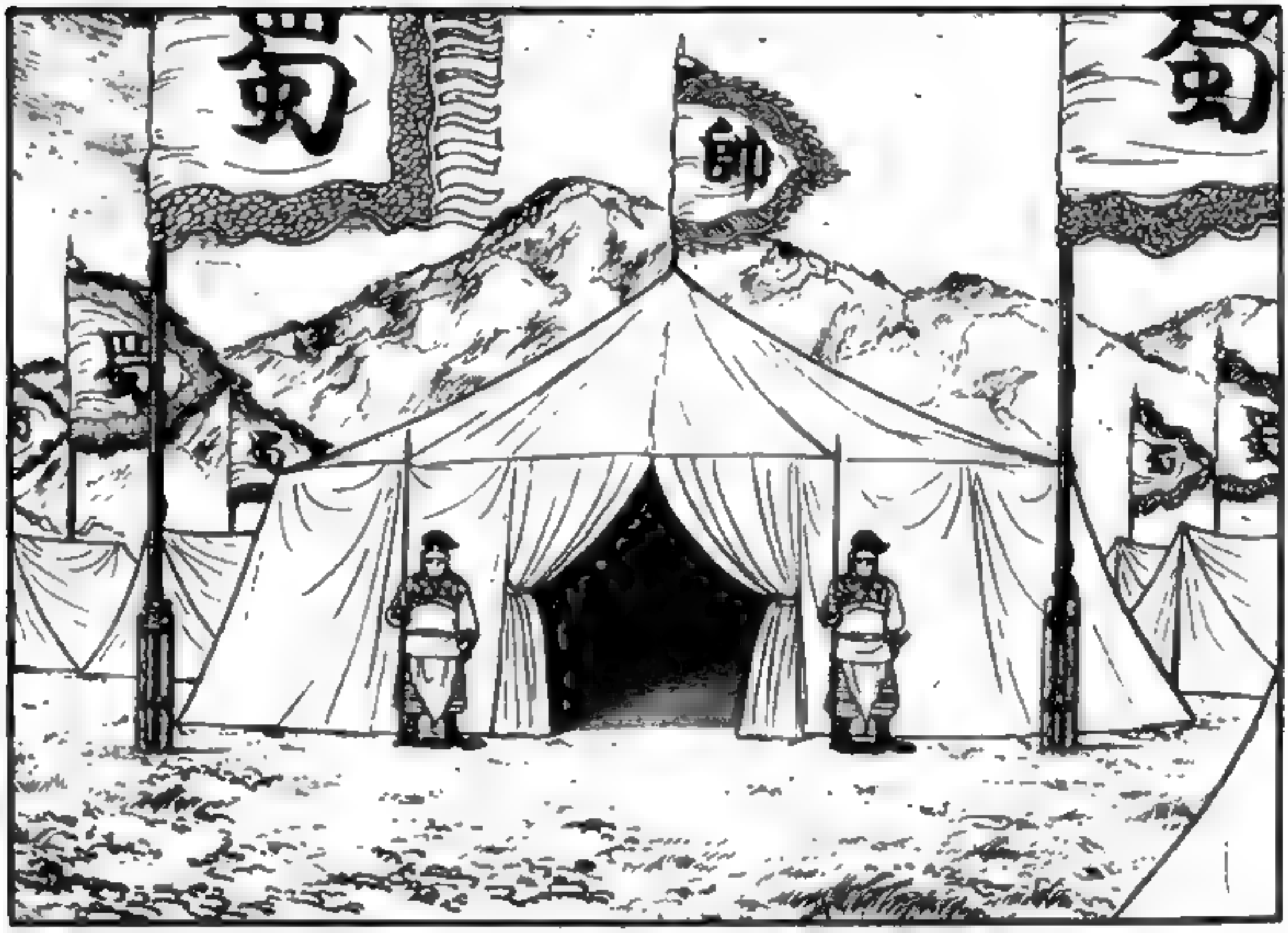
XIAHOU MAO IS A NOBLEMAN OF HIGH RANK, WHICH IS SUITABLE FOR THE COMMAND OF A LARGE FORCE, BUT HE HAS NO ACTUAL BATTLE EXPERIENCE TO SPEAK OF. THE COMMANDER OF THE SHU FORCE IS NONE OTHER THAN ZHUGE LIANG, A MOST CUNNING STRATEGIST WHO HAS A WEALTH OF SUCCESSFUL BATTLE EXPERIENCE.
I THUS SUGGEST YOUR MAJESTY APPOINT A MORE EXPERIENCED OFFICER AS COMMANDER.

MINISTER OF THE MASSES! ARE YOU CONSPIRING WITH ZHUGE LIANG TO REMOVE ME FROM THIS POST OR DO YOU SIMPLY DESPISE ME ON ACCOUNT OF MY YOUTH?
I MAY LACK EXPERIENCE BUT I HAVE STUDIED MILITARY STRATEGY SINCE MY CHILDHOOD!

YES, THAT CONFIDENCE IS EXACTLY WHAT I NEED IN A COMMANDER. I GIVE YOU THE COMMAND.


IF YOUR MAJESTY GRANTS ME THE COMMAND, I WILL NOT APPEAR BEFORE YOU AGAIN WITHOUT ZHUGE LIANG BOUND IN ROPES.

XIAHOU MAO HEADED OFF TO CHANG AN IMMEDIATELY TO ORGANIZE THE WESTERN FORCES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YES, HE IS CURRENTLY ORGANIZING AN ARMY AT CHANG'AN BY MUSTERING THE TROOPS FROM THE WESTERN REGIONS.
XIAHOU MAO HAS BEEN APPOINTED COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF?

I HEAR CAO CAO TOOK PITY ON HIM FOR HIS FATHER'S DEATH AND MARRIED HIM TO ONE OF HIS DAUGHTERS, MAKING HIM QUITE INFLUENTIAL AT COURT

YES, HUANG ZHONG SLEW HIS FATHER AT MT. DINGJUN.

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, HE IS THE SON OF XIAHOU YUAN.

CHANCELLOR, GRANT ME JUST 5000 SOLDIERS AND I'LL SHOW THAT PAMPERED YOUNG NOBLEMAN WHAT A WAR IS. I WILL RUSH OFF TO CHANG'AN BEFORE HIS ARMY IS EVEN ORGANIZED AND HE WILL FLEE IN PANIC.

I ADMIRE YOUR EAGERNESS, BUT HASTE MAKES WASTE, OR EVEN WORSE, FAILURE. THE ROAD TO CHANG'AN IS NOT SO DEVOID OF CAPABLE WEI GENERALS DEFENDING IT. WE WILL TAKE THE ORTHODOX APPROACH BY ADVANCING STEADILY.

CHANG AN
I HAVE BROUGHT ALONG 80,000 QIANG AUXILLARIES, COMMANDER.
THANK YOU FOR REPORTING IN, HAN DE.

THESE FOUR BEHIND ME ARE MY SONS, ALL EXPERT IN MARTIAL SKILLS.

I LIKE YOUR ENTHUSIASM. GLADLY, HAN DE.

WILL YOU ALLOW ME THE COMMAND OF THE VANGUARD?

THANK YOU.

YES, SIR.

HAHA, LET US USE HAN DE TO GAUGE THE ENEMY'S STRENGTH.

HAN DE AND HIS FOUR SONS MARCHED FOR THE SHU ARMY AT THE HEAD OF THE VAN-GUARD QIANG FORCE

IN RESPONSE THE SHU VANGUARD, LED BY ZHAO ZILONG MARCHED FOR FENGMING HILLS

THEY MUST BE THE QIANG TROOPS.

IT'S THE SHU ARMY!

LET'S SEE WHAT THEY'RE MADE OF.

I AM ZHAO YUN ZILONG OF SHU! WHO IS BRAVE ENOUGH TO CHALLENGE ME!?

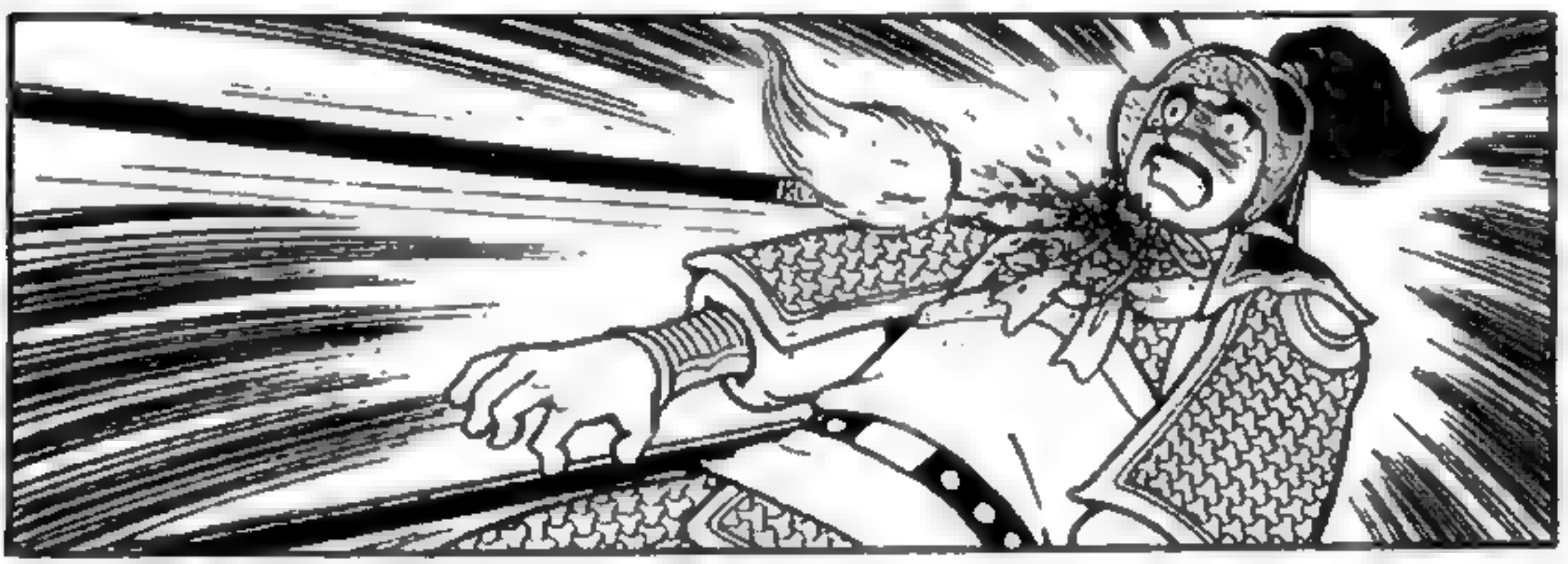
I SEE YOU'VE GOT GUTS BUT LET'S SEE IF YOU HAVE THE SKILLS TO BACK IT!

韓
HAN YING, ELDEST SON OF HAN DE, WILL CHALLENGE YOU!

AND LET'S SEE IF YOU STILL HAVE THE STRENGTH TO KEEP UP, OLD MAN!

THIS IS HOW YOU THRUST A SPEAR!

YOU CALL THAT A THRUST?



HOW DARE YOU!

BROTHER!

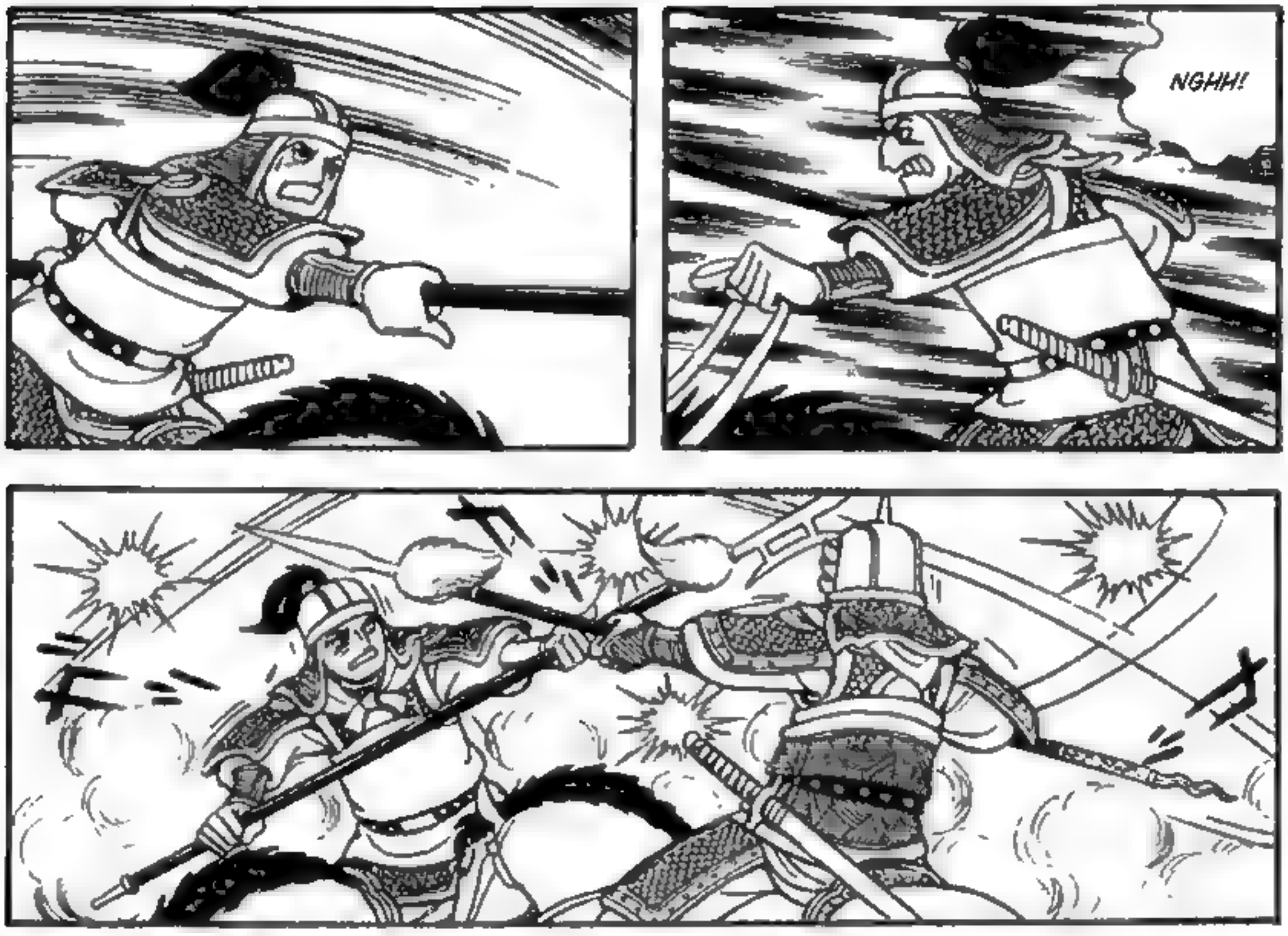
BROTHER!

RAHHH!

WHA!

AGH!

AND THEN THERE WAS ONE.


NGHH!

HE REALLY IS THE SAME ZHAO ZILONG WHO SINGLE-HANDEDLY PENETRATED CAO CAO'S MILLION-MAN ARMY!
ALL FOUR WERE SLAIN IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!

MY SONS!

ANYONE ELSE!?

ACK!

AGHH!

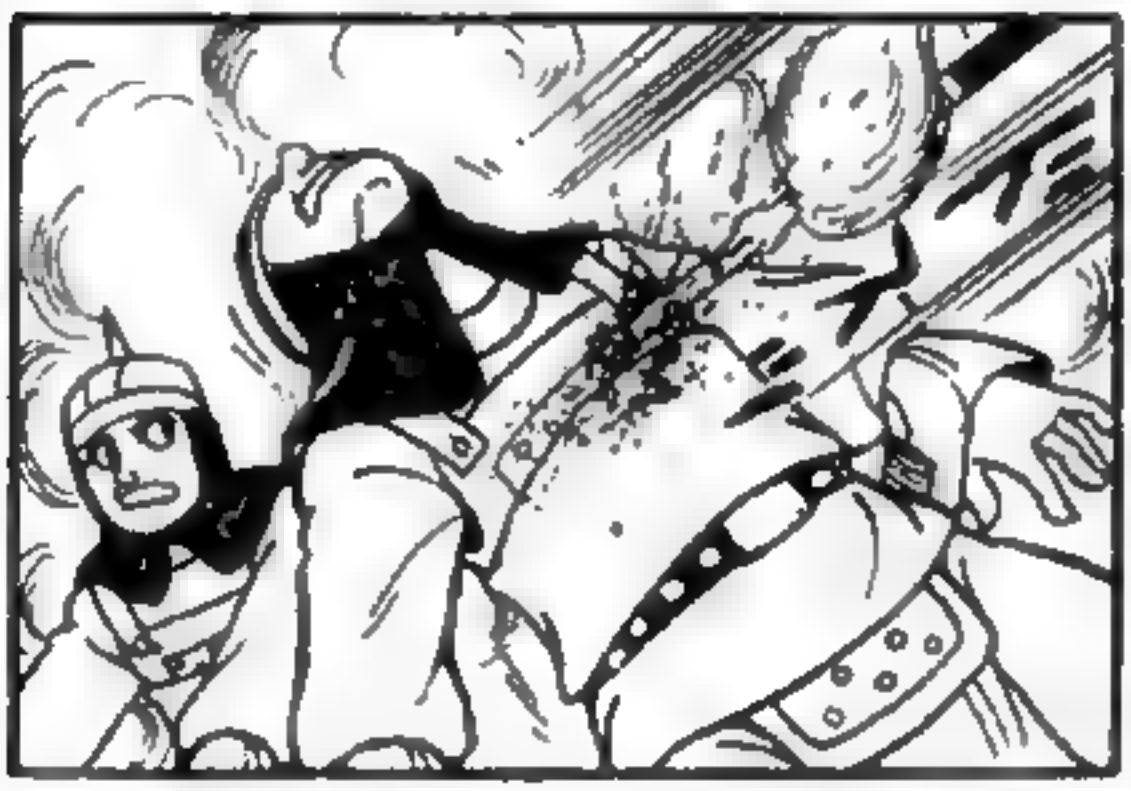
韓

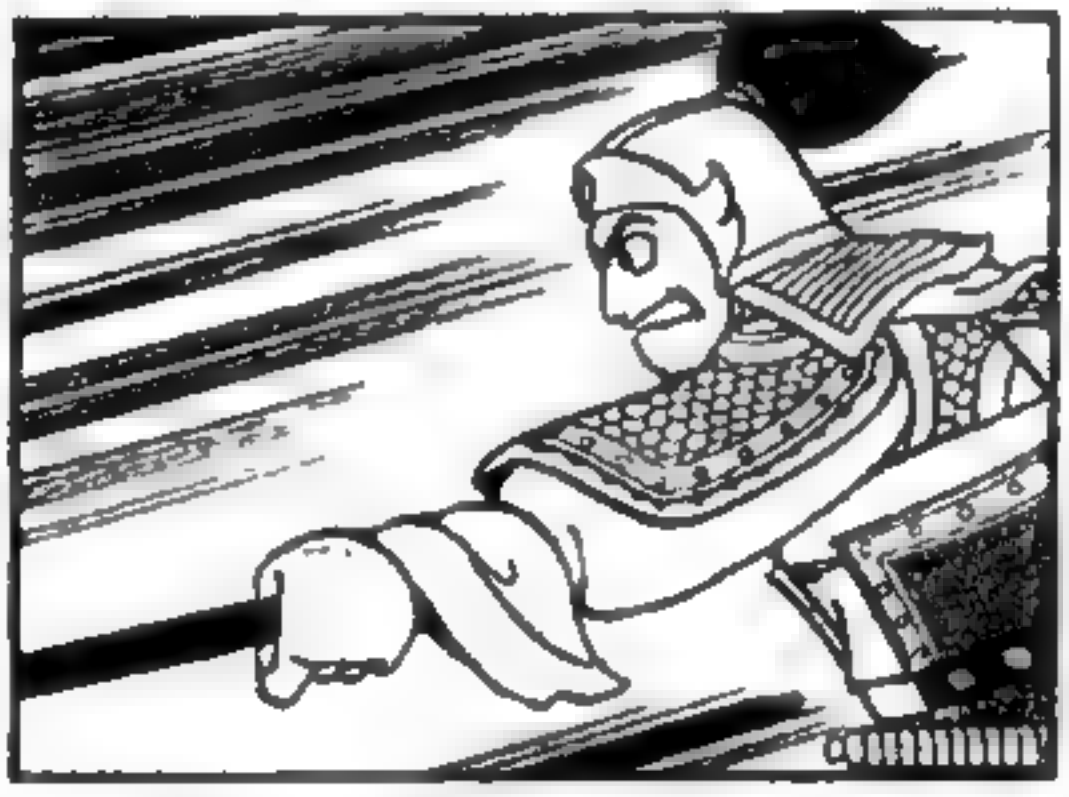
DID YOU NOT COME HERE TO FIGHT? IS THERE NO ONE AMONG YOU WHO CAN GIVE ME A FIGHT!?

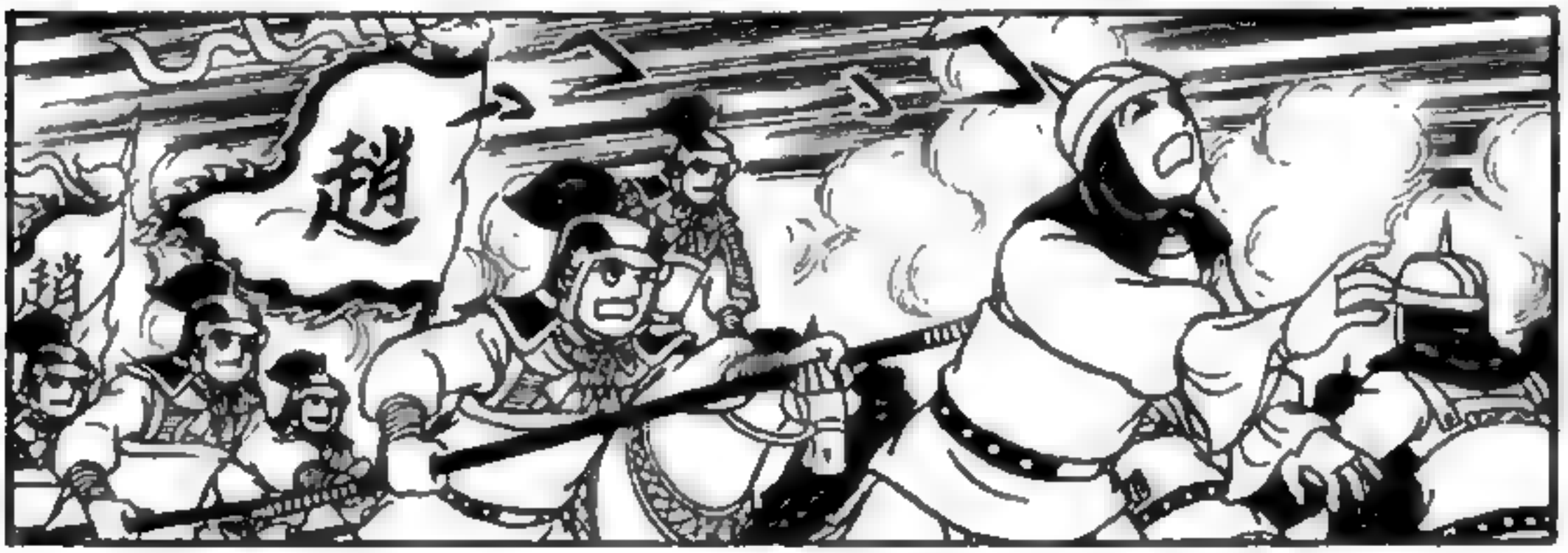
韓

COME, MEN! NOW'S OUR CHANCE!

A SINGLE MAN HAS MADE AN ARMY OF 80,000 FALL INTO PANIC!



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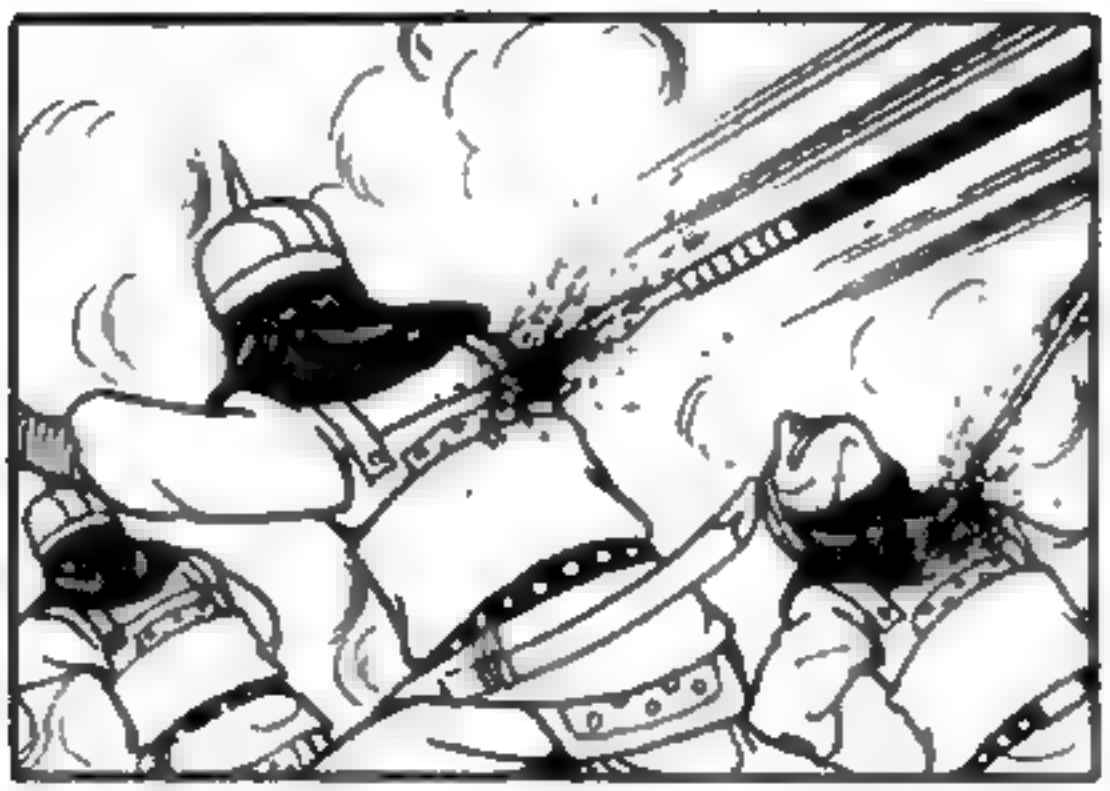
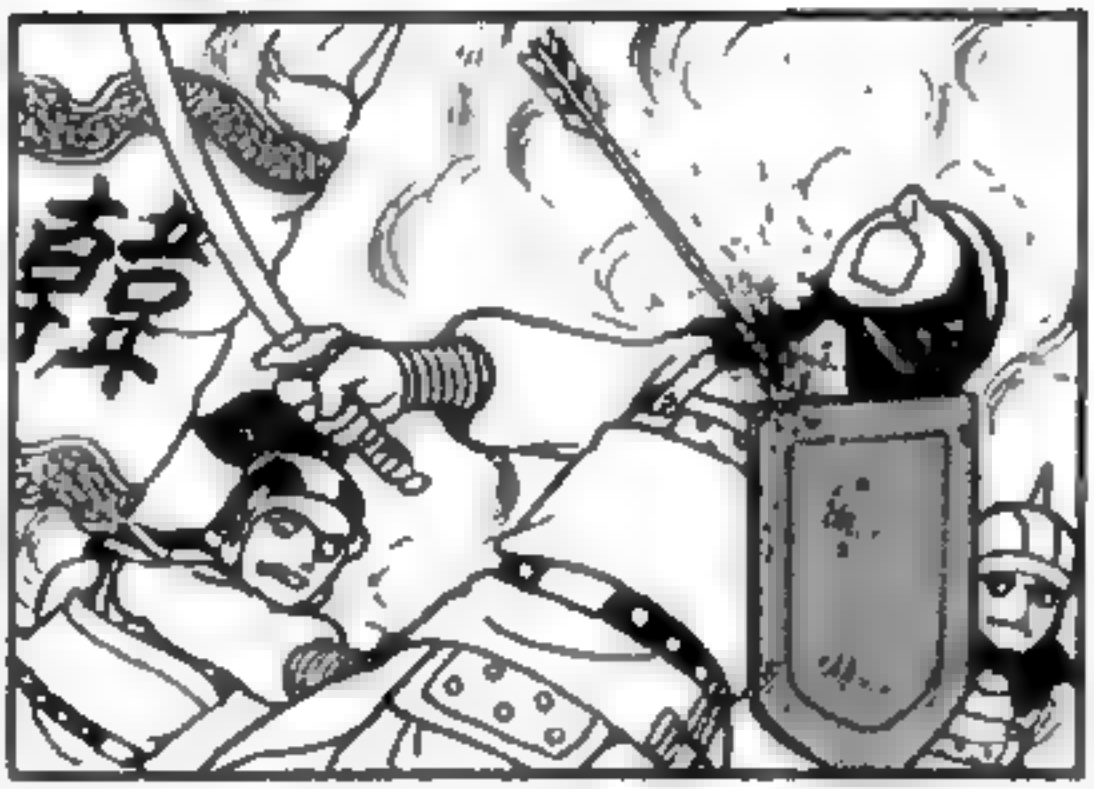
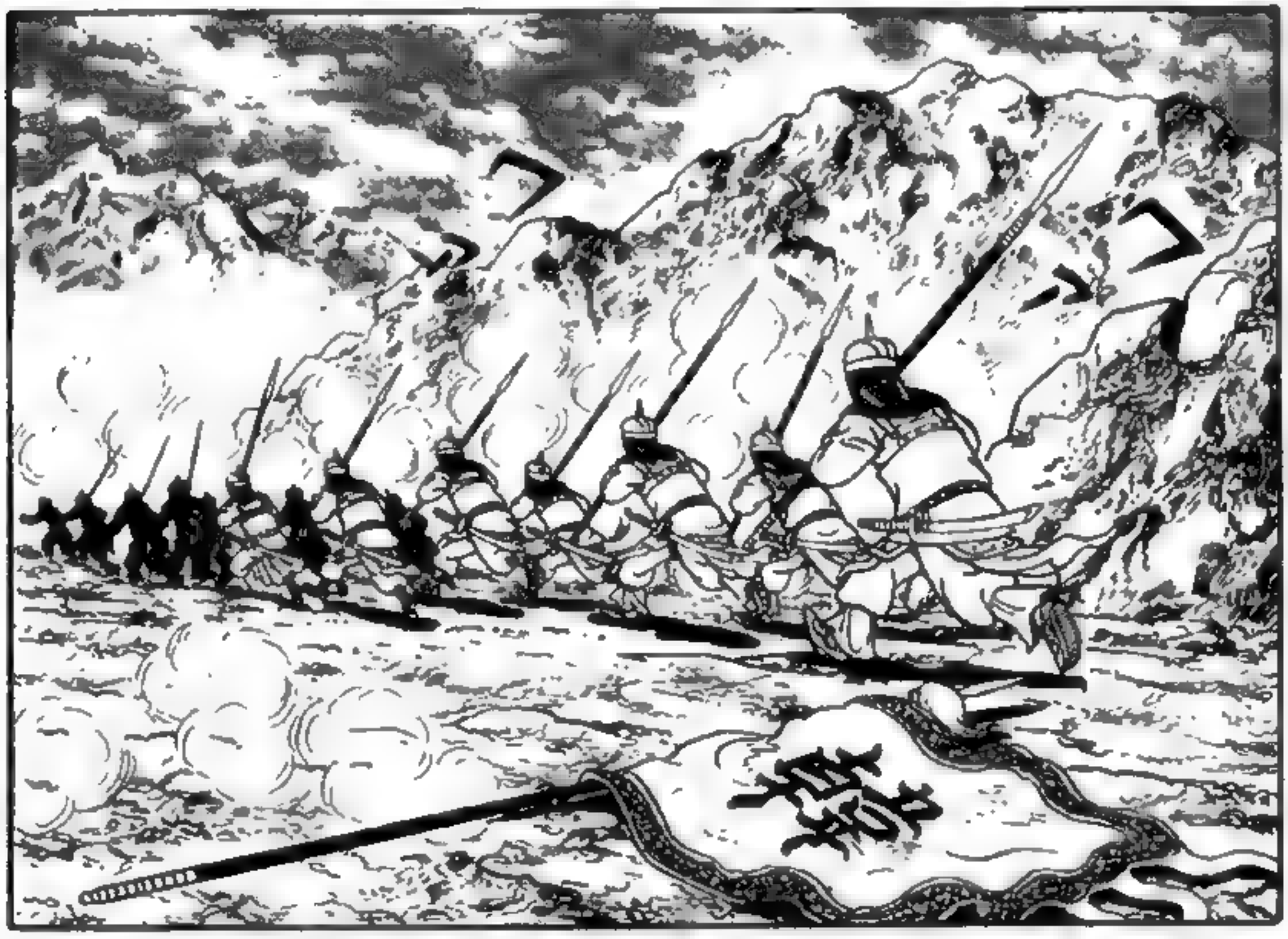




RETREAT!
RETREAT!



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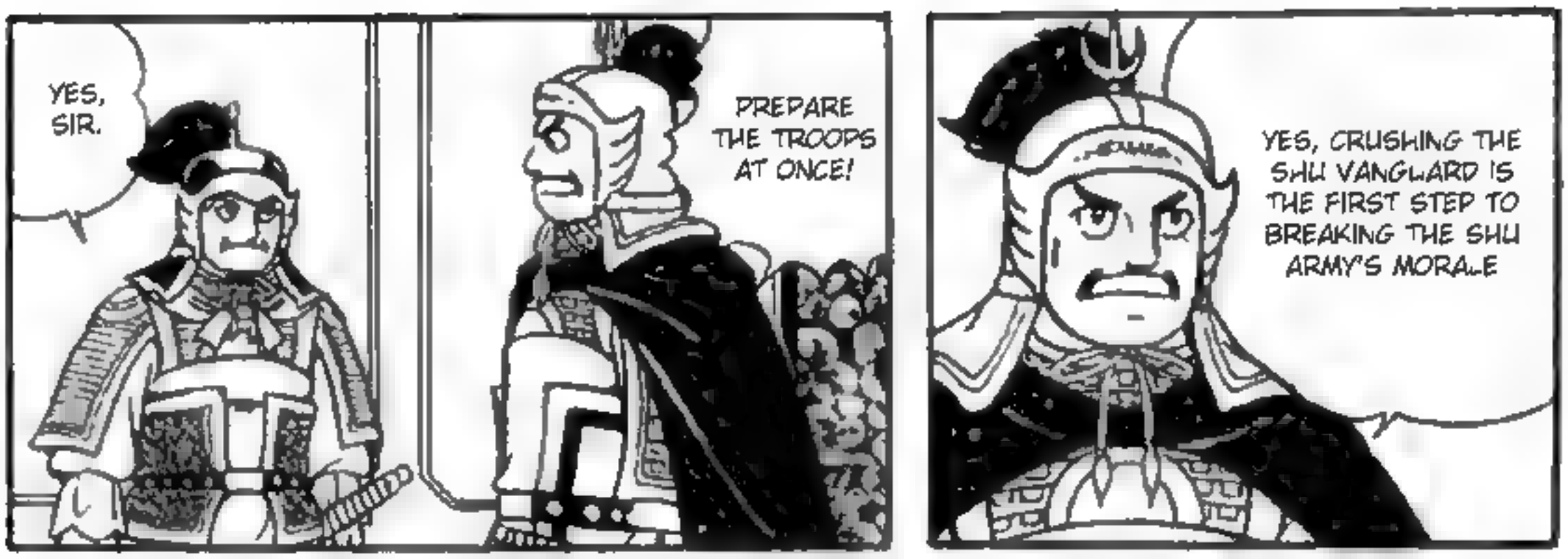
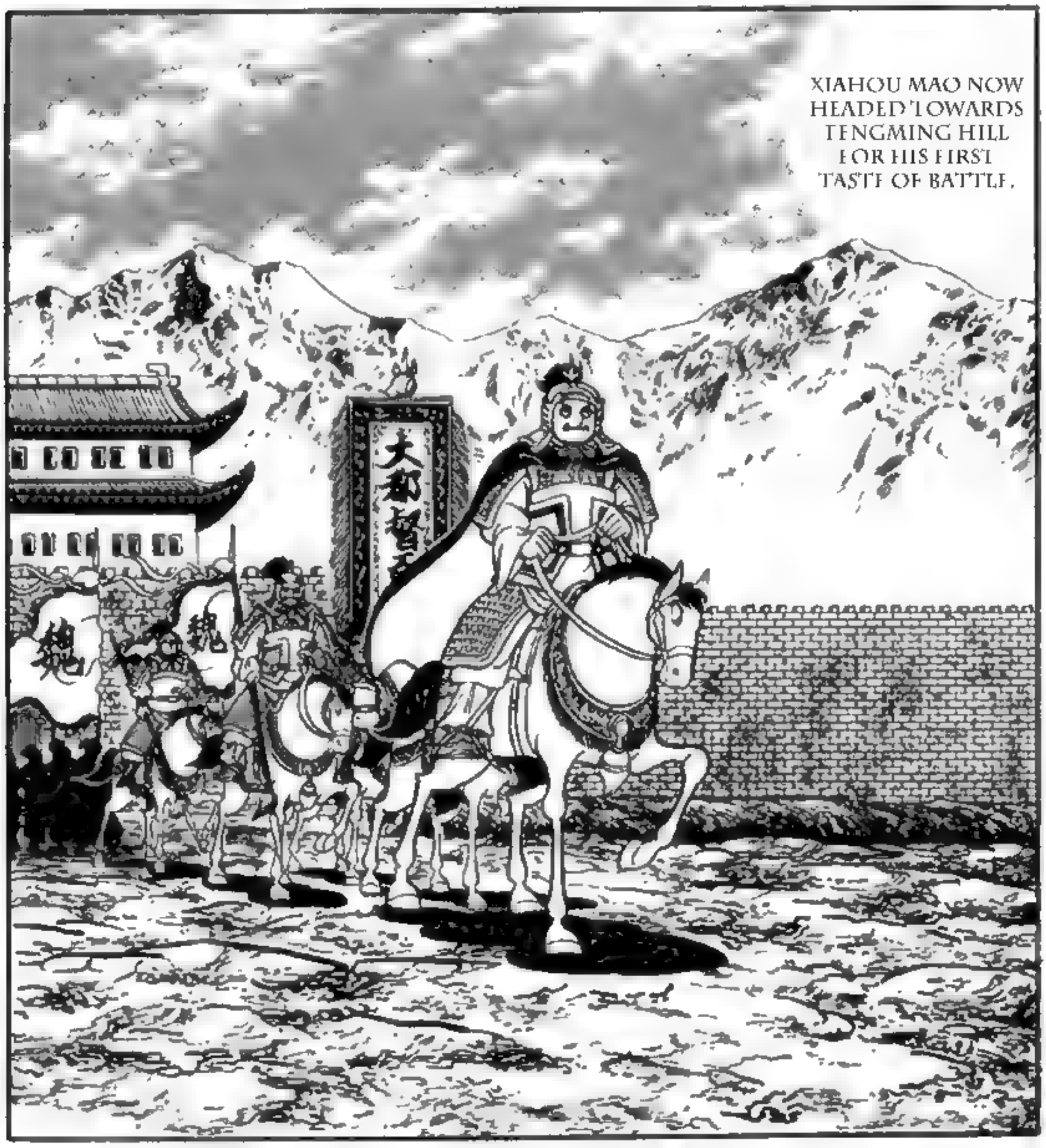
HAHAHA, THOSE YOUNGSTERS HAD STILL A LONG WAYS TO GO TO KEEP UP WITH ME!

YOUR PERFORMANCE TODAY WAS LITERALLY JAW-DROPPING, GENERAL.

HAHA, YES, I WAS A LITTLE STUBBORN THERE.
IT'S NO WONDER YOU WERE SO FURIOUS AT THE CHANCELLOR'S INITIAL PLANS FOR HAVING YOU STAY BEHIND.
THE CAMPAIGN'S ONLY JUST BEGUN. THERE ARE STILL PLENTY OF MERITS TO BE EARNED.
IN ANY CASE, IT'S NO TIME TO REST ON OUR LAURELS WITH TODAY'S VICTORY ALONE.
EXACTLY, SIR.
LIKE CAPTURING XIAHOU MAO! HAHAHA!

CHANG'AN
YES, THE DEATH OF MY FOUR SONS AT THE BATTLE'S START THREW THE TROOPS INTO PANIC...
WHAT!? SHU FORCES HAVE ROUTED OUR VANGUARD?
YOU WILL PERSONALLY HEAD OUT, SIR?
I WILL LEAD THE TROOPS AND DEAL WITH THE ENEMIES AT FENGMING HILL.
HMM, I SUPPOSE WE UNDER-ESTIMATED THEM A BIT...


YES, SIR.
PREPARE THE TROOPS AT ONCE!
YES, CRUSHING THE SHU VANGUARD IS THE FIRST STEP TO BREAKING THE SHU ARMY'S MORALE


XIAHOU MAO NOW HEADED TOWARDS TENGMING HILL FOR HIS FIRST TASTE OF BATTLE.
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YES, SIR.

XIAHOU MAO HIMSELF IS COMING HERE!?

PREPARE FOR BATTLE!

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HA, WHAT CAN AN INXPERIENCED MAN WHO CAN ONLY BOAST ABOUT HIS NOBILITY DO?

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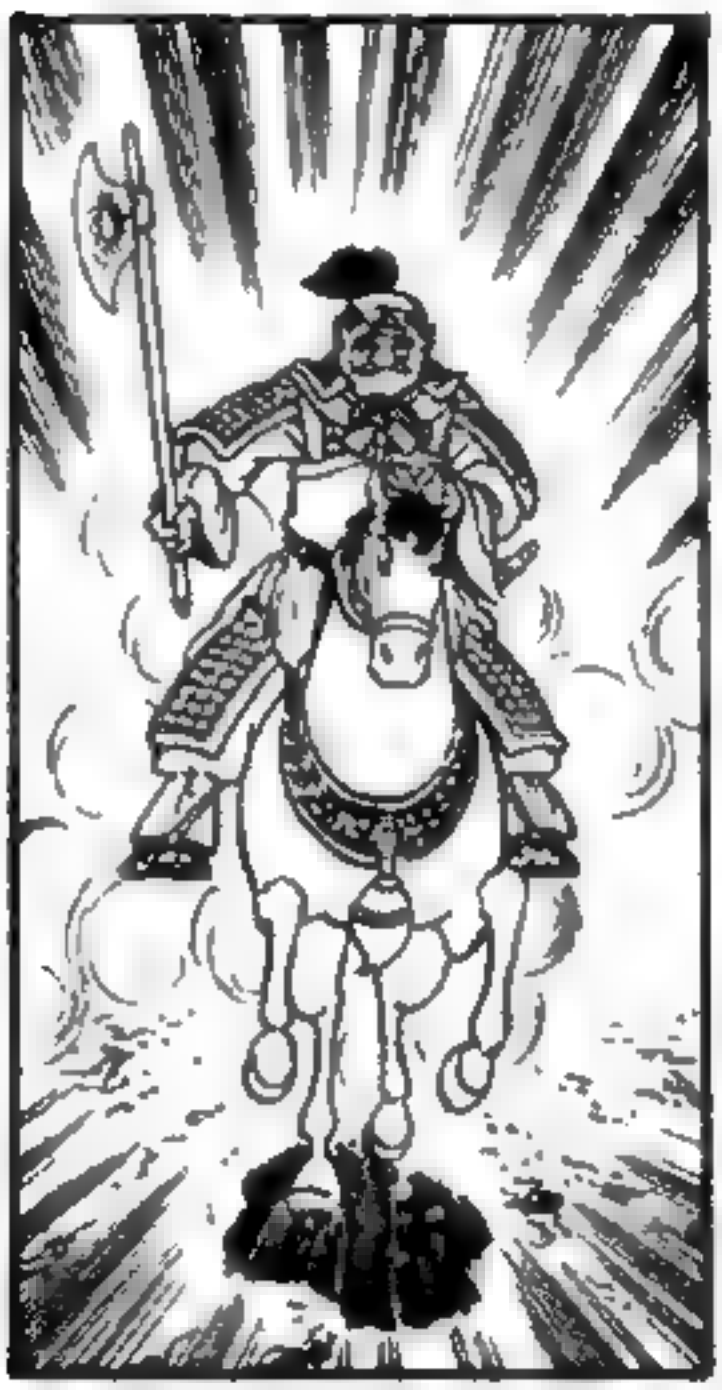
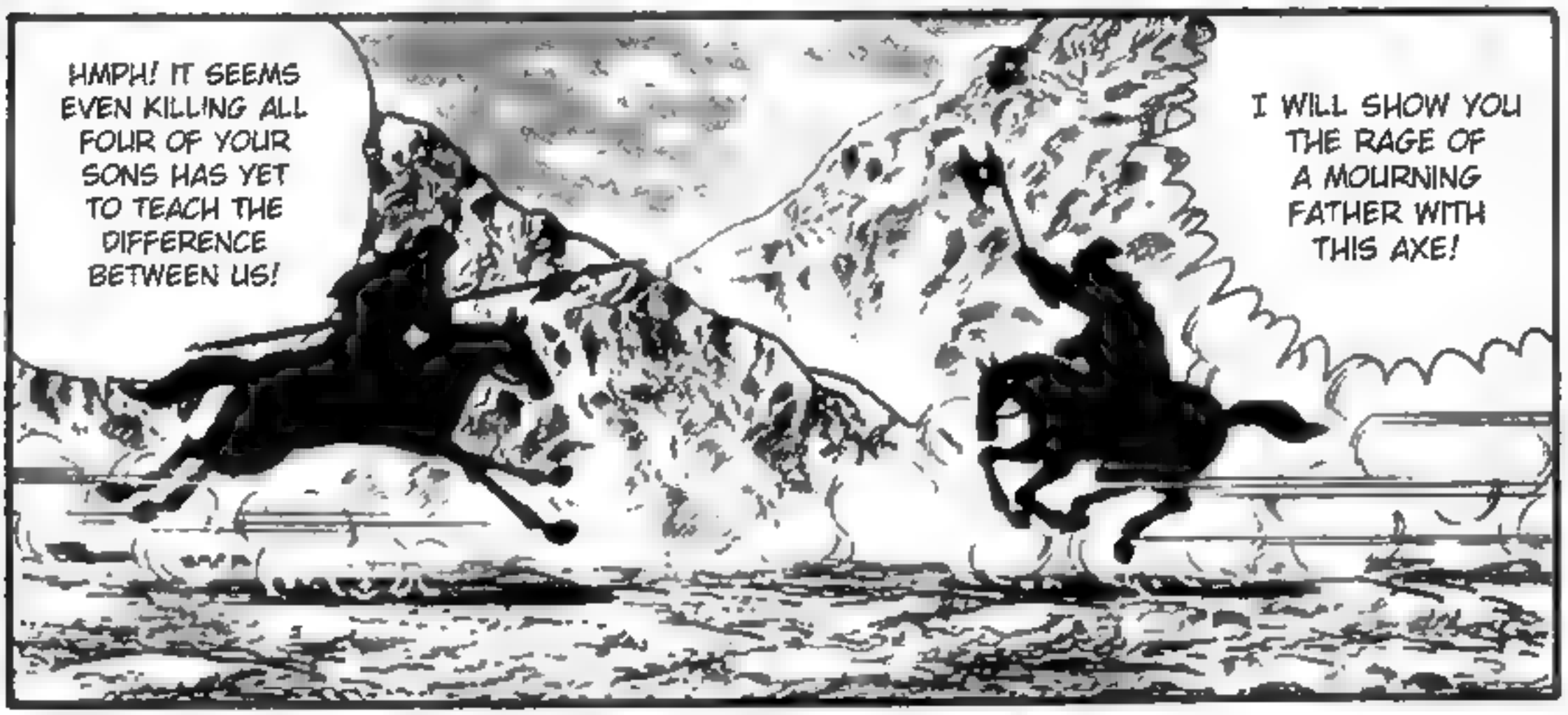
THERE THEY ARE.

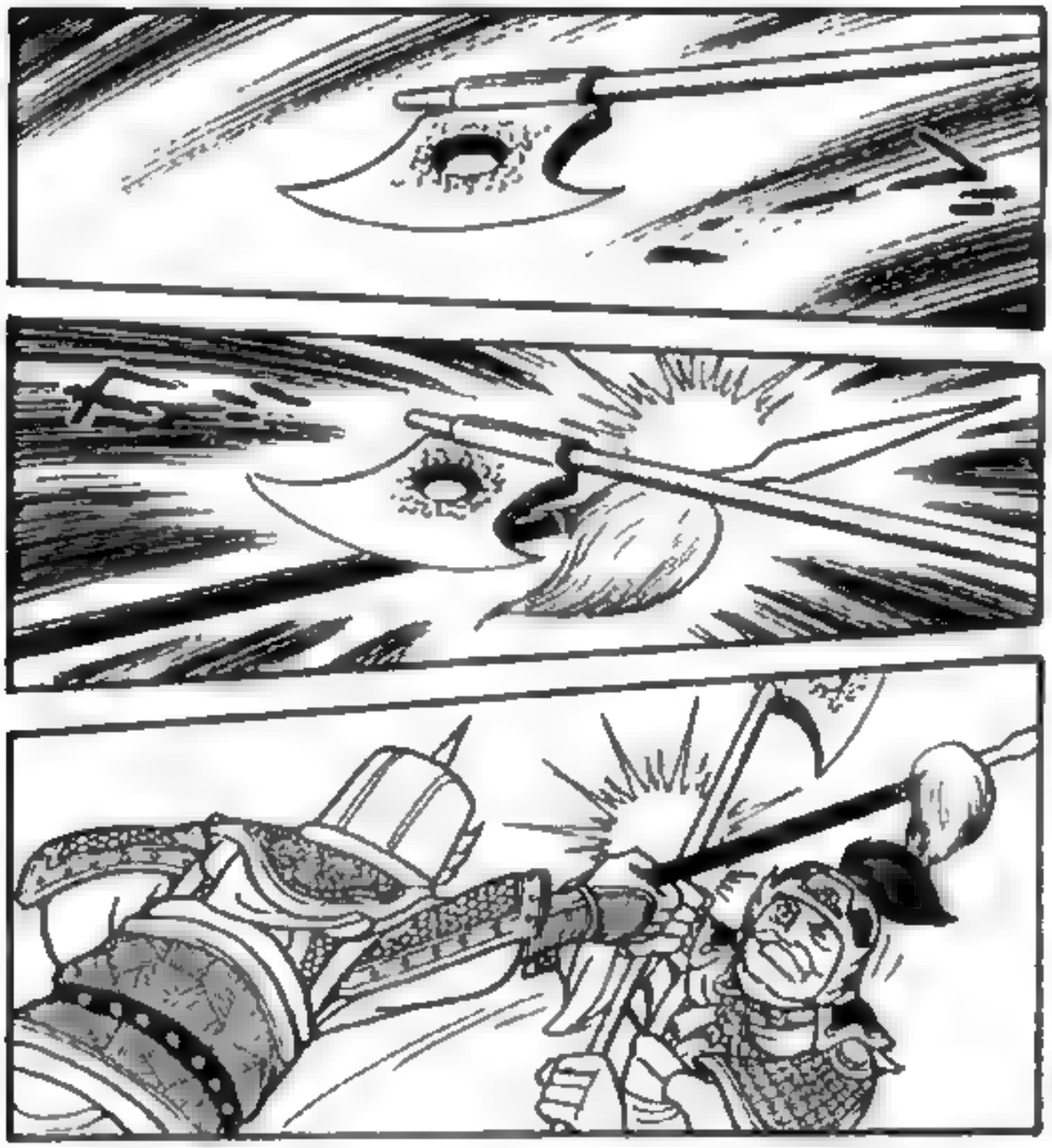
WHAT!

XIAHOU MAO! HAVE YOU COME TO PERSONALLY TAKE MY SPEAR!?

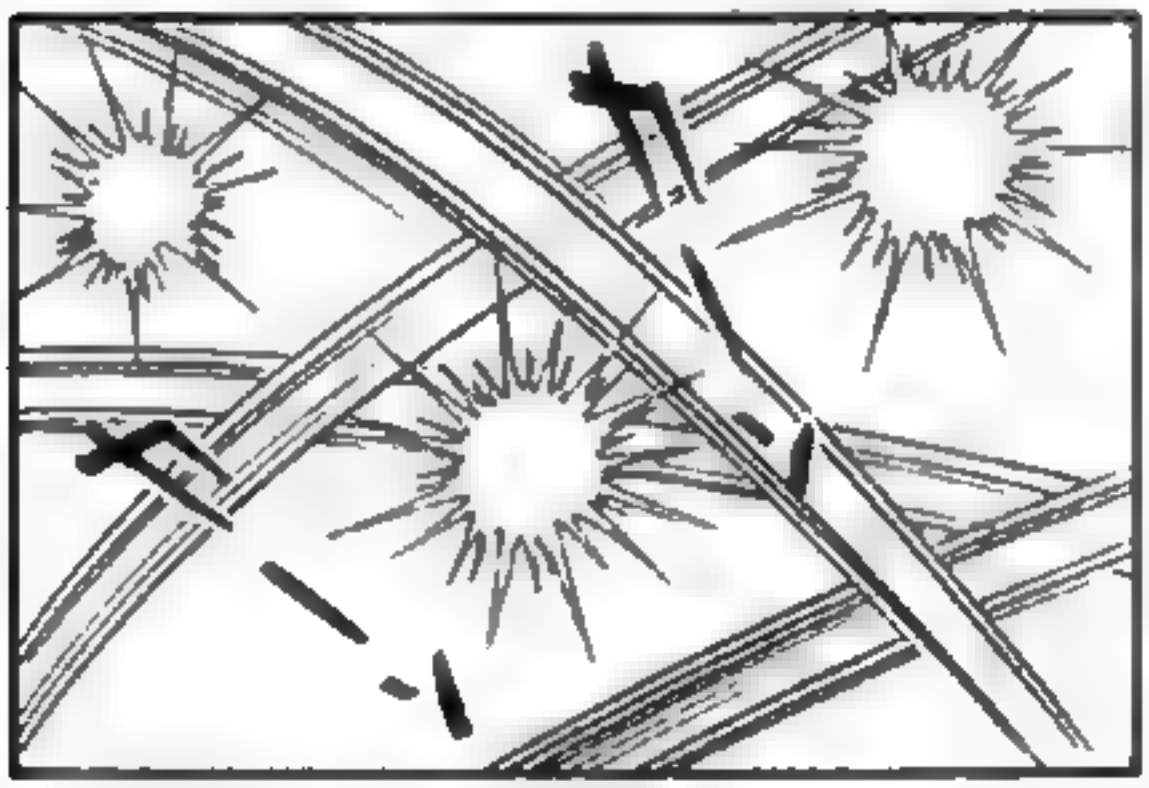


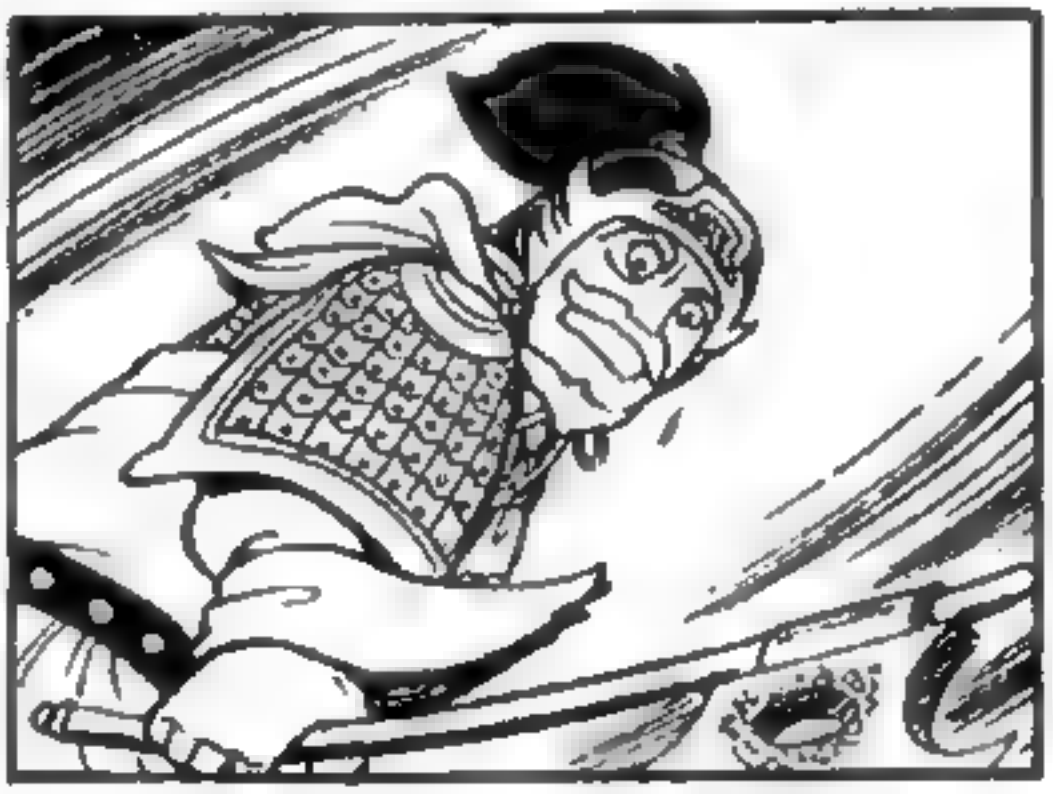
YES, OF COURSE, HAN DE.
THAT IS ZHAO ZILONG. ALLOW ME THE CHANCE TO AVENGE THE DEATHS OF MY FOUR SONS, COMMANDER.


HMPH! IT SEEMS EVEN KILLING ALL FOUR OF YOUR SONS HAS YET TO TEACH THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US!
I WILL SHOW YOU THE RAGE OF A MOURNING FATHER WITH THIS AXE!



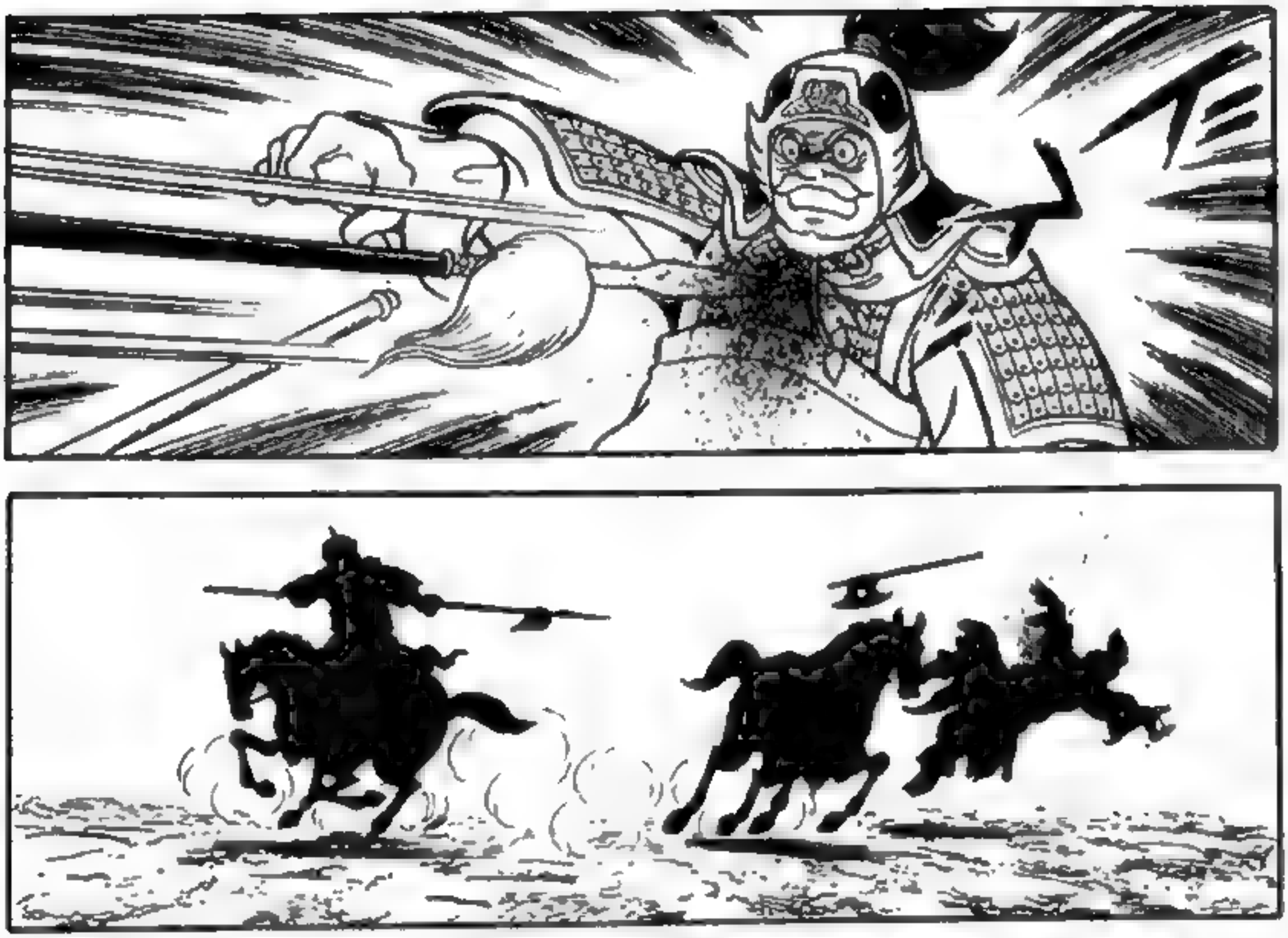
SHUT YOUR MOUTH!





BUT THIS IS STILL CHILD'S PLAY FOR ZHAO ZILONG!

I SEE YOU'RE BETTER THAN YOUR SONS AT LEAST.

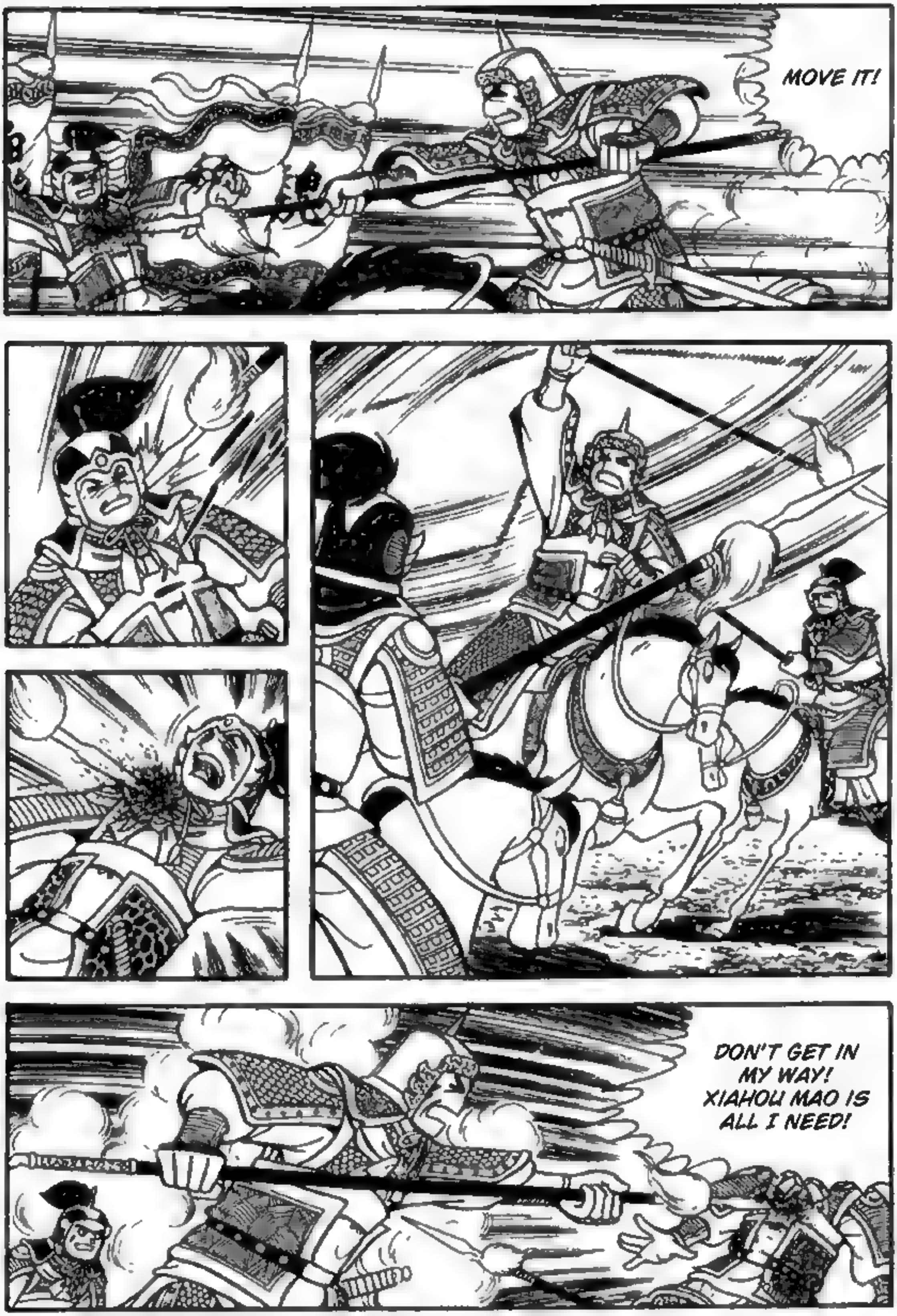


OHHH!
AGHH!
IT'S YOUR TURN NOW, XIAHOU MAO!

LET US NOT SHAME OUR GENERAL, MEN OF SHU!

DON'T LET ZHAO ZILONG APPROACH OUR COMMANDER!

PROTECT THE COMMANDER!


MOVE IT!
DON'T GET IN MY WAY! XIAHOU MAO IS ALL I NEED!

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Y-YES, I'LL DO SO.

IT IS TOO DANGER-OUS FOR YOU TO BE ON THE FRONT-LINES, COM-MANDER. PLEASE WITHDRAW.

AGHH...

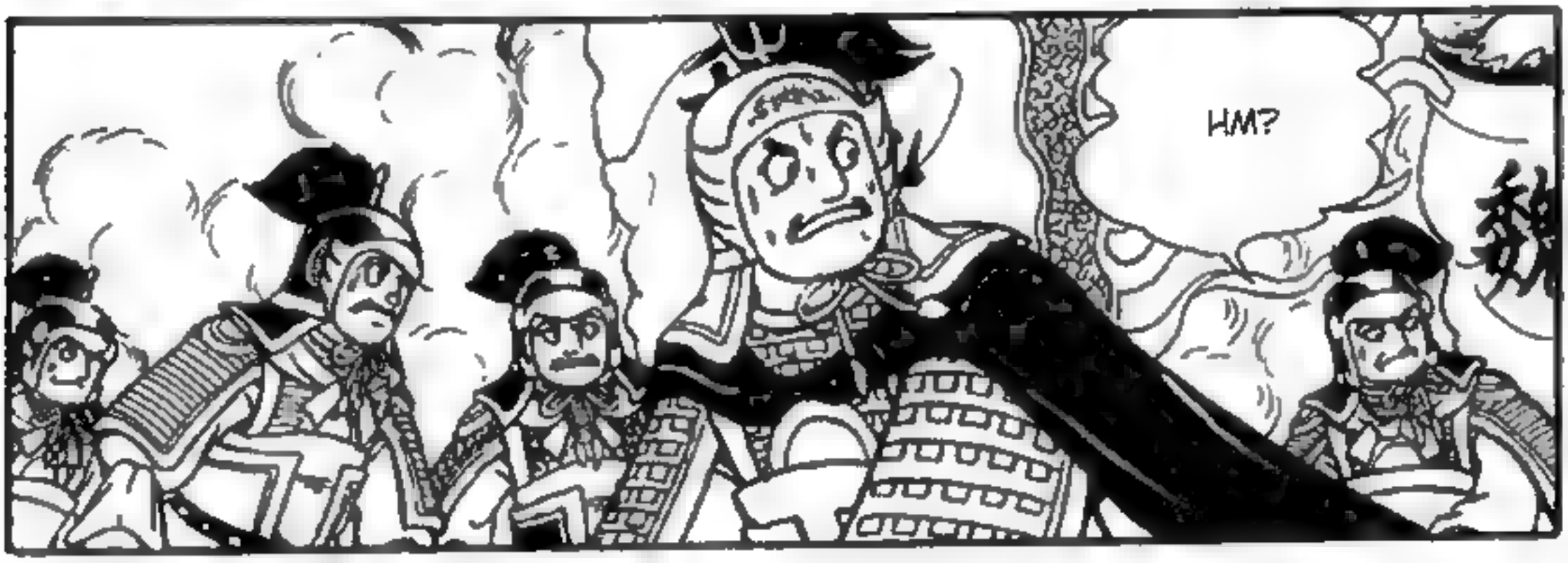
DON'T LET HIM THROUGH!

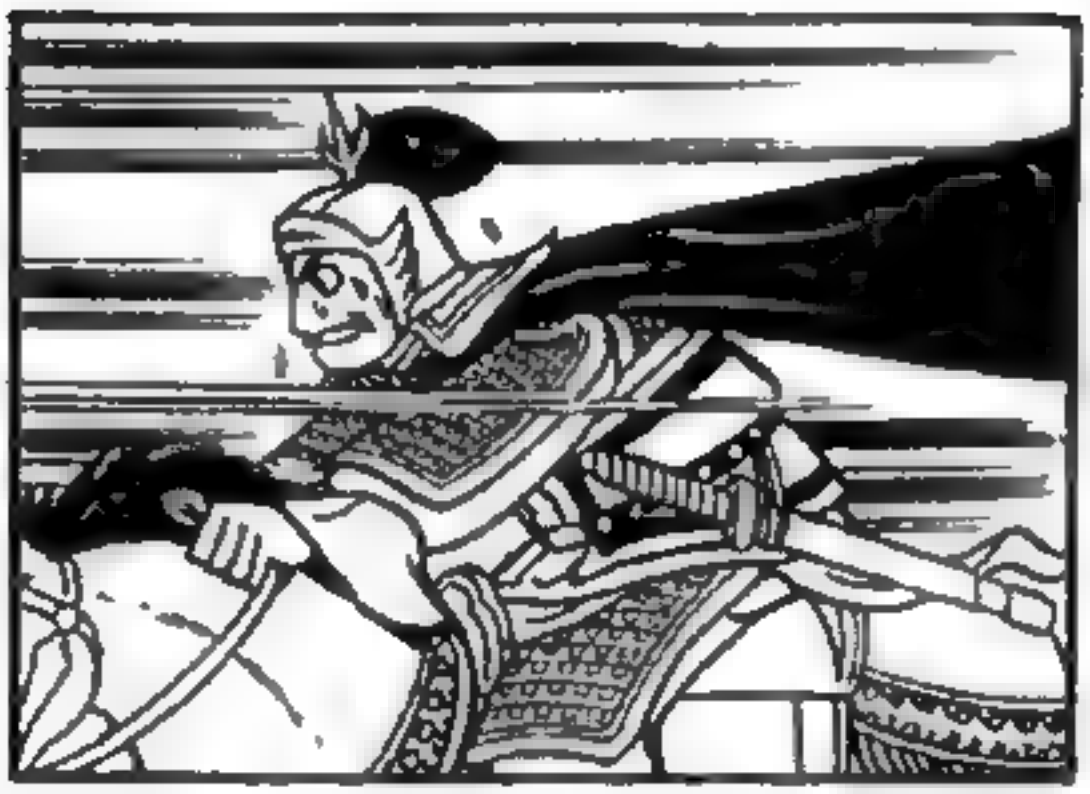
FIGHT ME, YOU PAMPERED NOBLESON!

HE'S A MONSTER!

AHH!

THE ENEMIES HAVE STARTED TO RETREAT! PURSUE THEM!


HM?



RETREAT!
RETREAT!

AGHH!

LOOK, OUR COMMANDER HAS TAKEN FLIGHT!

AHHH!
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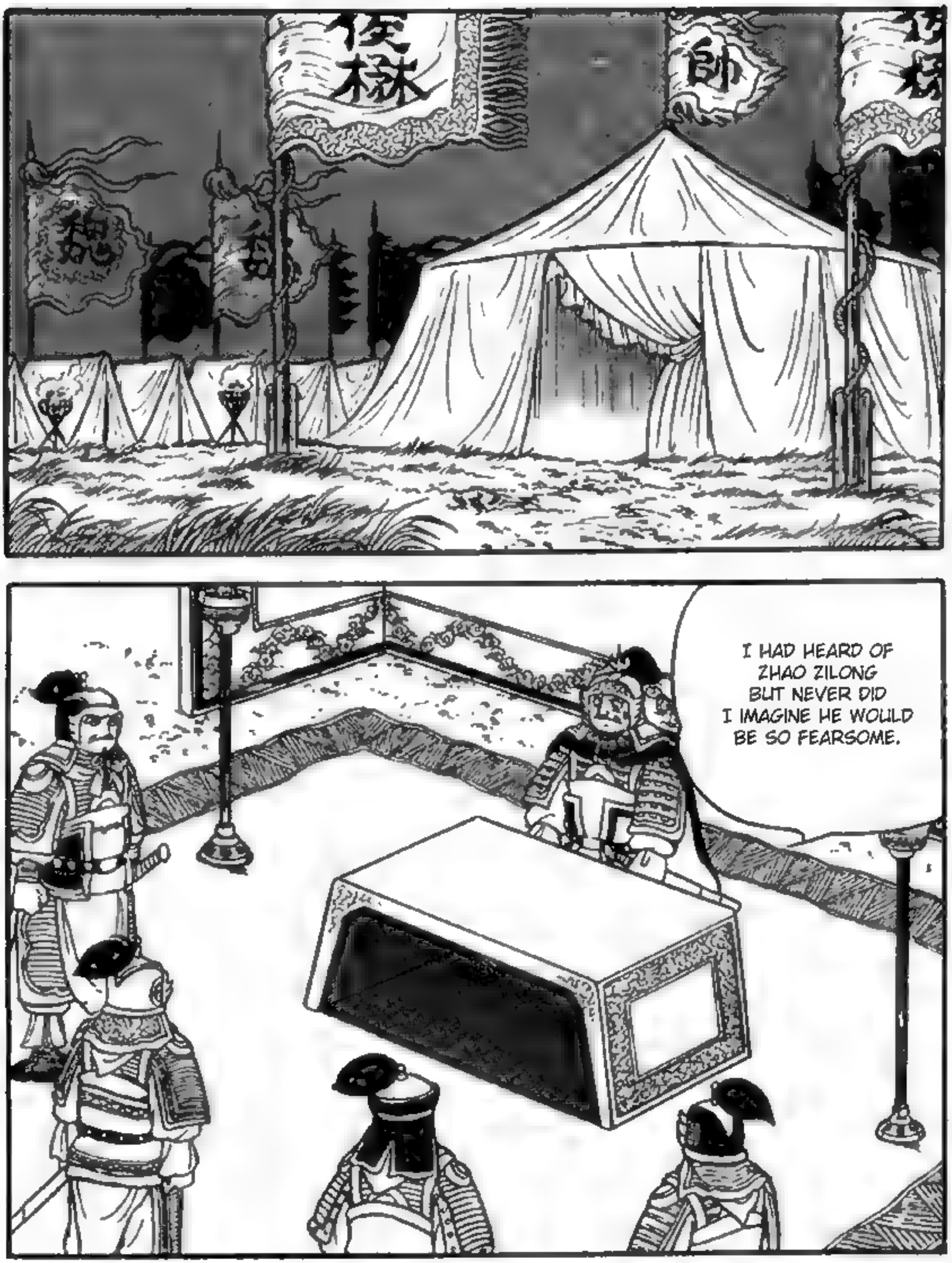
PREDICAMENT



MNN...

IS THERE ANYONE IN OUR ARMY WHO CAN STAND UP TO HIM?

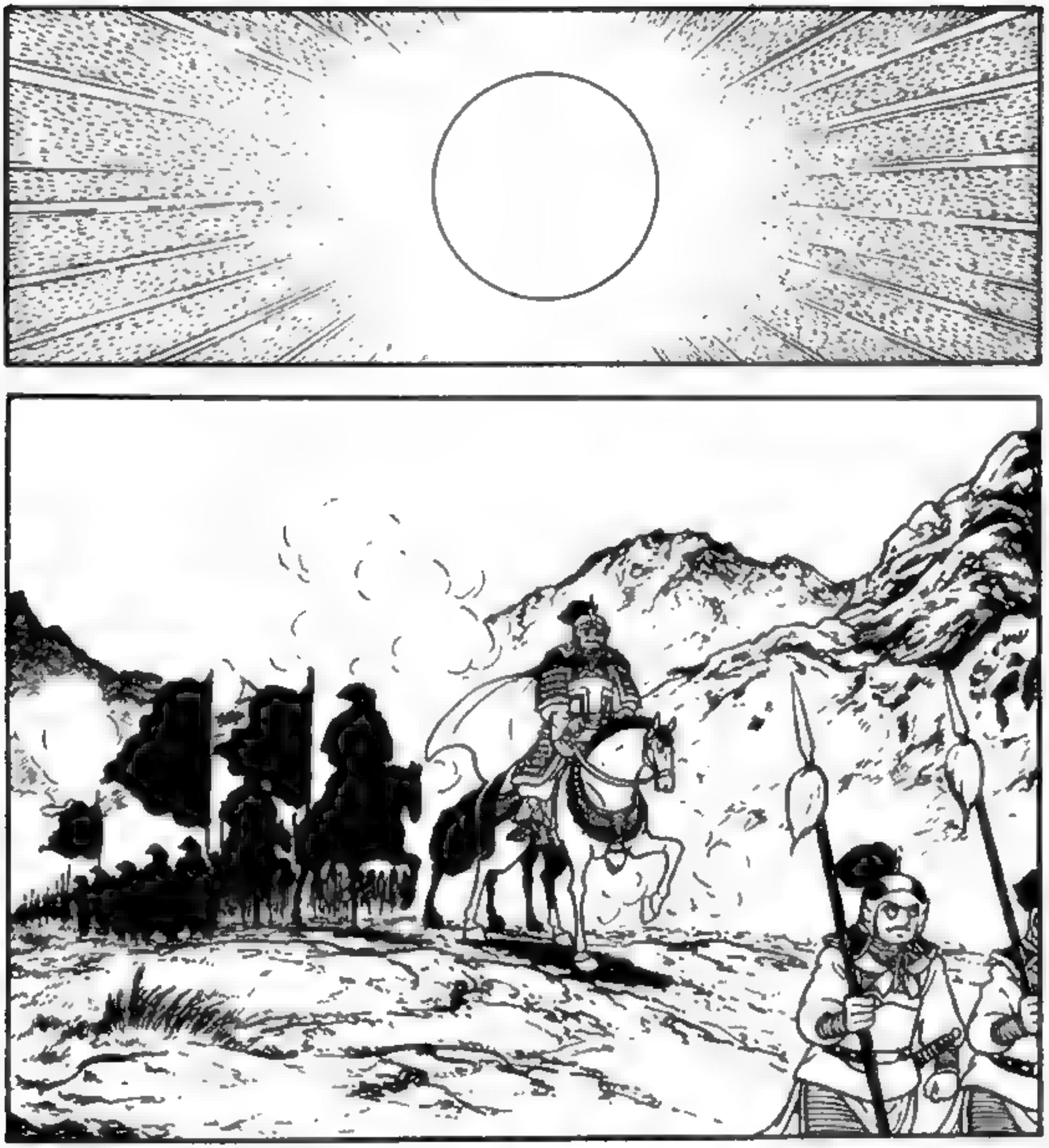
AH YES, THAT'S A GOOD IDEA, CHENG WU.

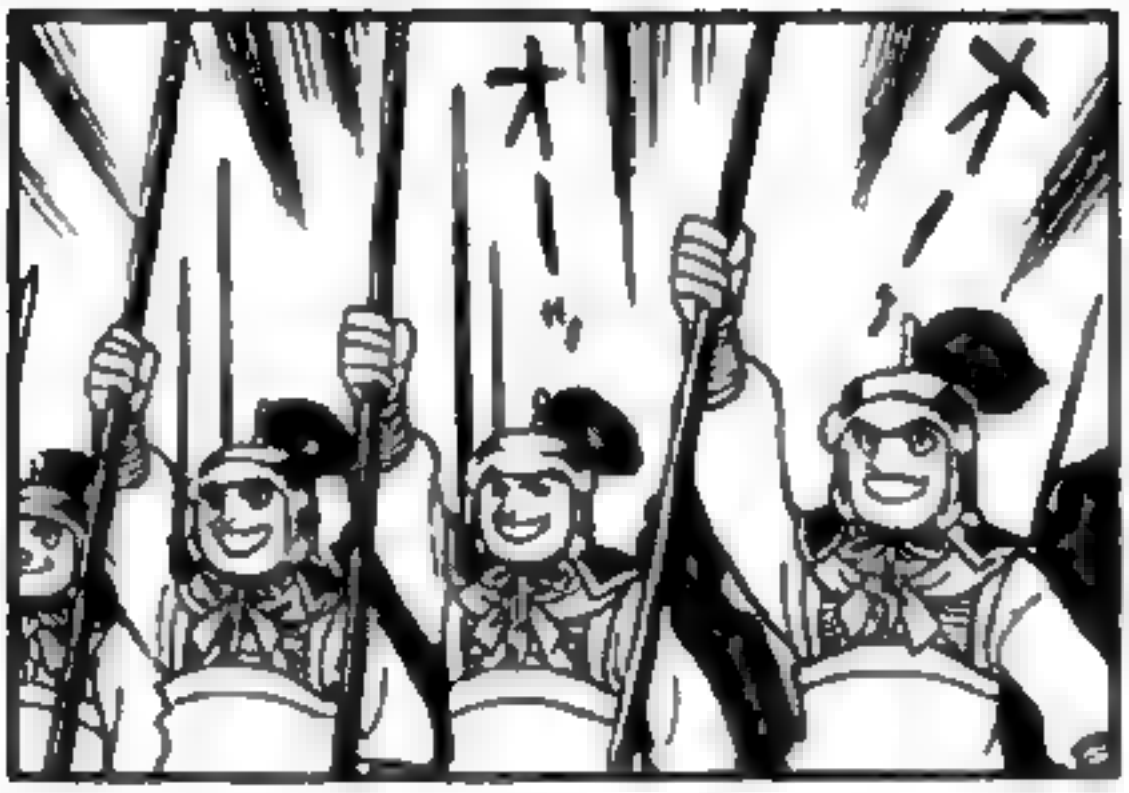
ZHAO ZILONG SEEMS OVERLY EAGER TO CAPTURE YOU, LIKE A MAD CHARGING BOAR. THUS, YOU SHOULD LURE HIM IN DEEP TO THE CENTER SO THAT OUR HIDDEN FORCES TO HIS FLANKS CAN AMBUSH AND SURROUND HIM.

SIR, WE MAY NOT HAVE ANY SINGLE MAN CAPABLE OF TAKING ZHAO ZILONG, BUT BATTLES ARE FOUGHT WITH ARMIES AND NOT LONE WARRIORS.

YES, SIR.

THEN I WILL ALLOT 30,000 TROOPS FOR EACH AMBUSH FORCE ON THE FLANKS.


HAHA, I SEE THEY STILL HAVEN'T HAD ENOUGH.

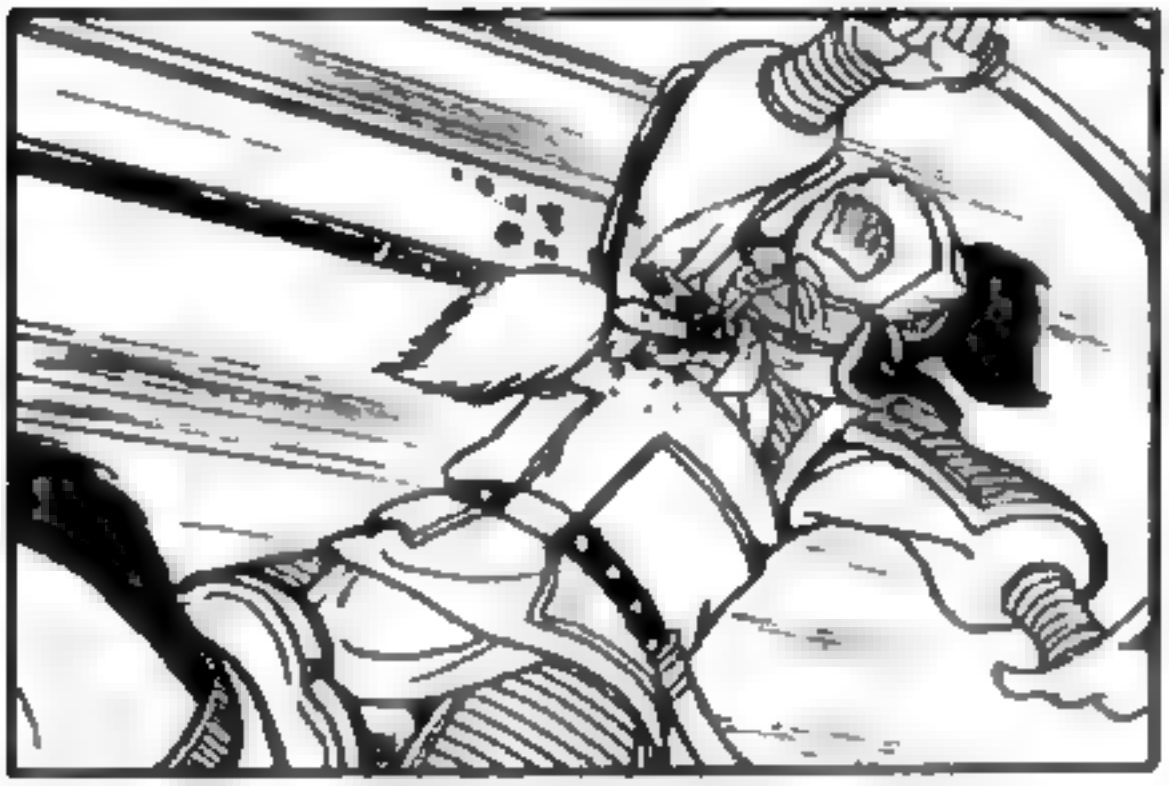


LET'S GIVE'EM ANOTHER TROUNCING, MEN!

S-STAY CALM, MEN. ZHAO ZILONG'S STILL ONLY HUMAN.

H-HERE HE COMES...

ATTACK!



ISN'T THERE ANYONE WHO CAN GIVE ME A PROPER FIGHT!?
HARDLY ANY RESOLVE!
曹操
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XIAHOU MAO! YOU'LL BE MINE TODAY!

R-RETREAT!

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JUST RUN BACK HOME IF YOU'RE NOT EVEN GOING TO BOTHER TO FIGHT!

OUTTA MY WAY!

XIAHOU MAO IS OUR ONLY TARGET!

HA! AS IF THAT WHELP COULD EVEN CONCEIVE OF SUCH A THING!

SIR, DO YOU NOT FIND IT STRANGE THAT THEY'VE COME TO FIGHT SO SOON AFTER THEIR STINGING DEFEAT? PERHAPS THEY HAVE SOMETHING MORE PLANNED?

STOP RIGHT THERE, XIAHOU MAO!

YES, SIR!

GIVE THE SIGNAL!

HE'S FALLEN FOR THE BAIT.

HE'S CHASING US TOO DEEP JUST AS WE WANTED, SIR!

THAT'S THE SIGNAL!

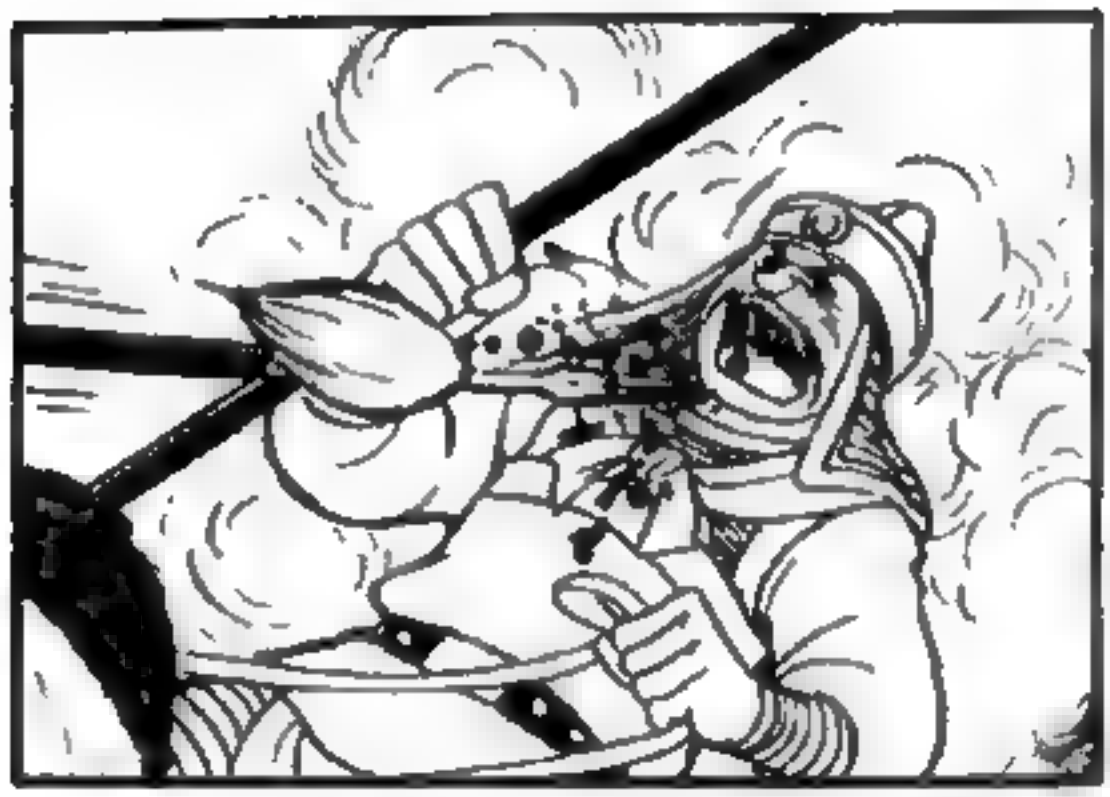
NOW!

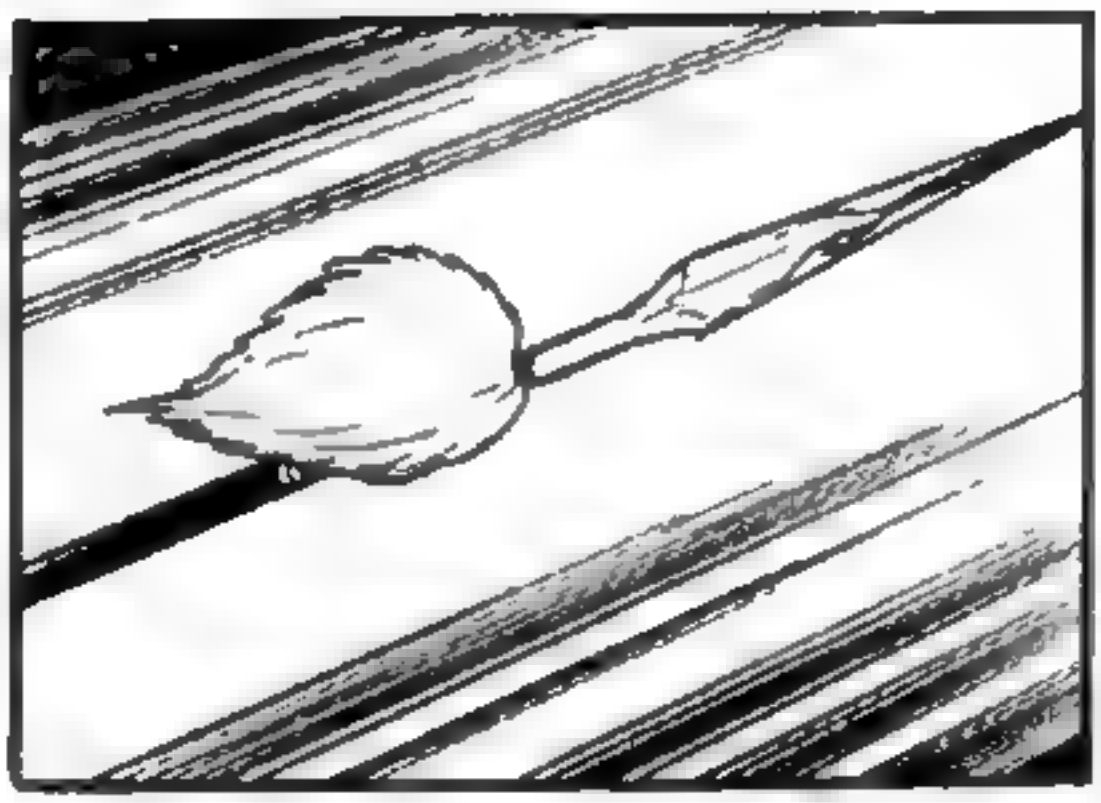
T-THEY REALLY WERE PLANNING AN AMBUSH!

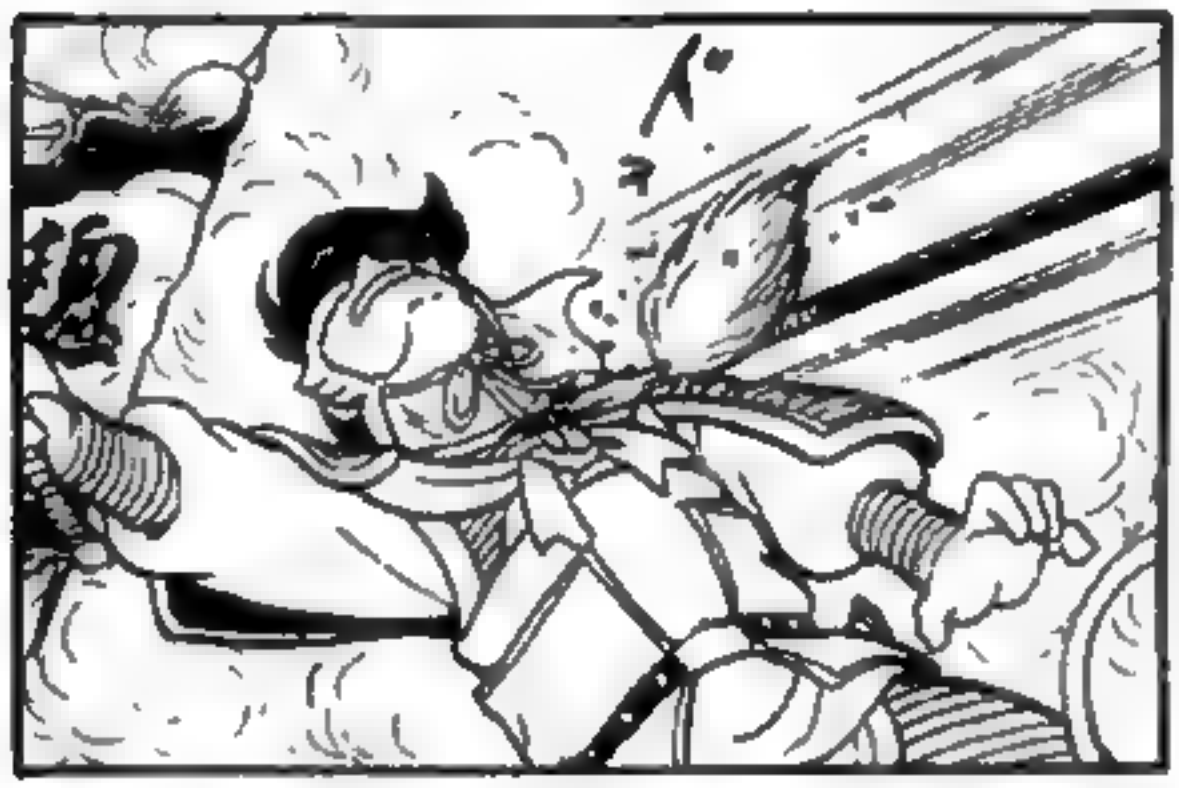
WHA!

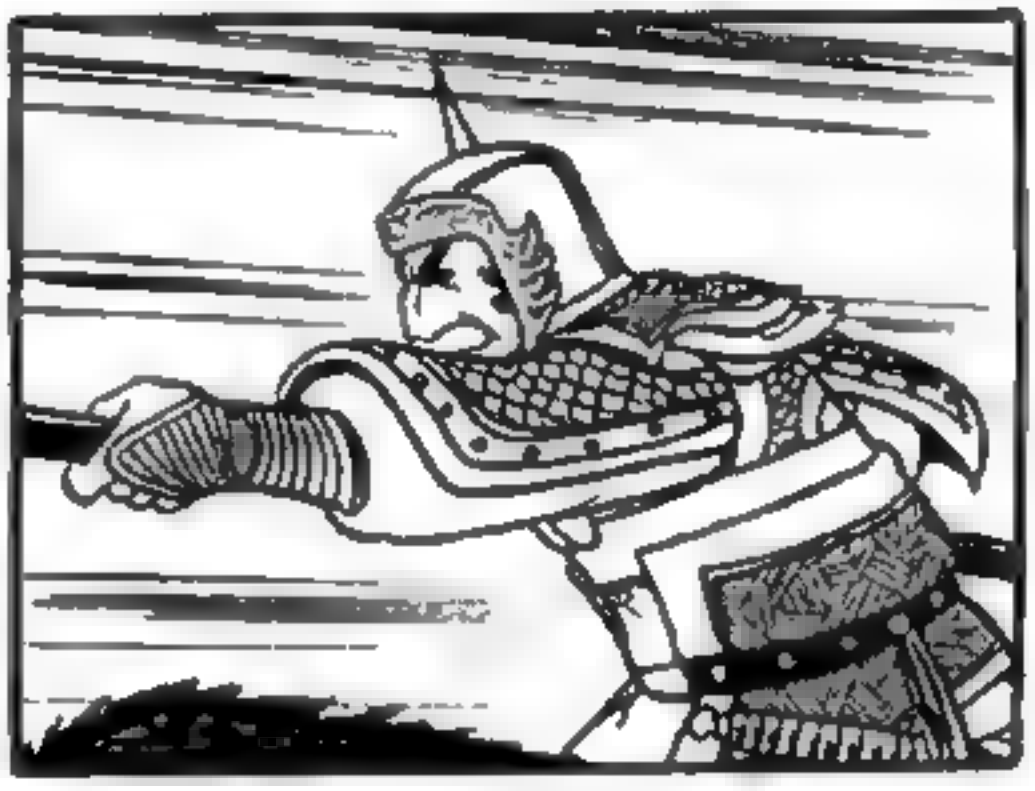
DON'T HESITATE AND FIGHT THEM OFF!

CURSES! WE MUST FIGHT OUR WAY OUT!
SIR, ANOTHER AMBUSH FORCE TO OUR RIGHT AS WELL!
NO NEED TO RUSH HIS CAPTURE. LET'S TIRE HIM OUT FIRST.
HAHA, THE TRAP IS SUCCESSFULLY SPRUNG!









SAY NO MORE, DENG ZHI!

THERE ARE TOO MANY ENEMIES ON ALL SIDES, SIR!

DON'T THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE OTHER THAN CUTTING A PATH OUT OF HERE!

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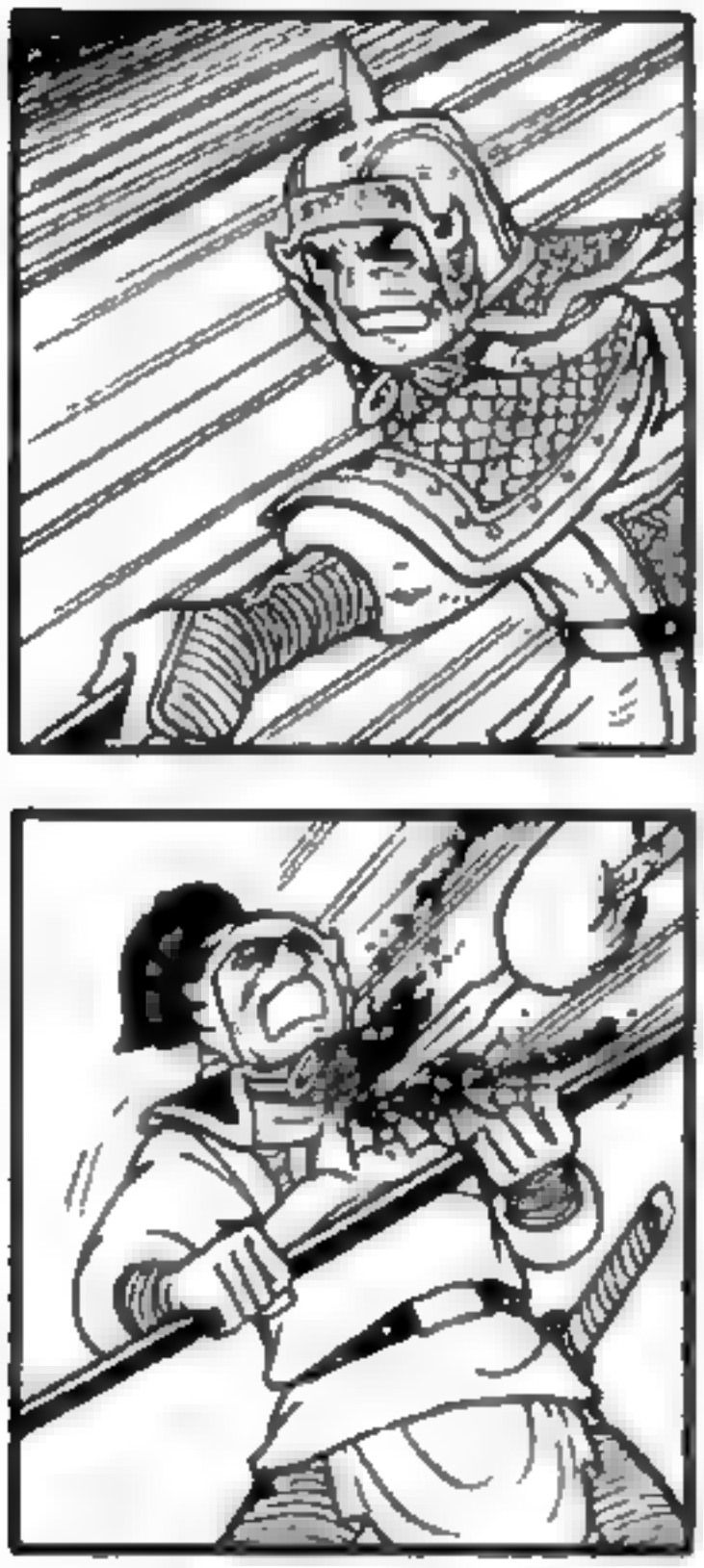
PASSAGE OF TIME

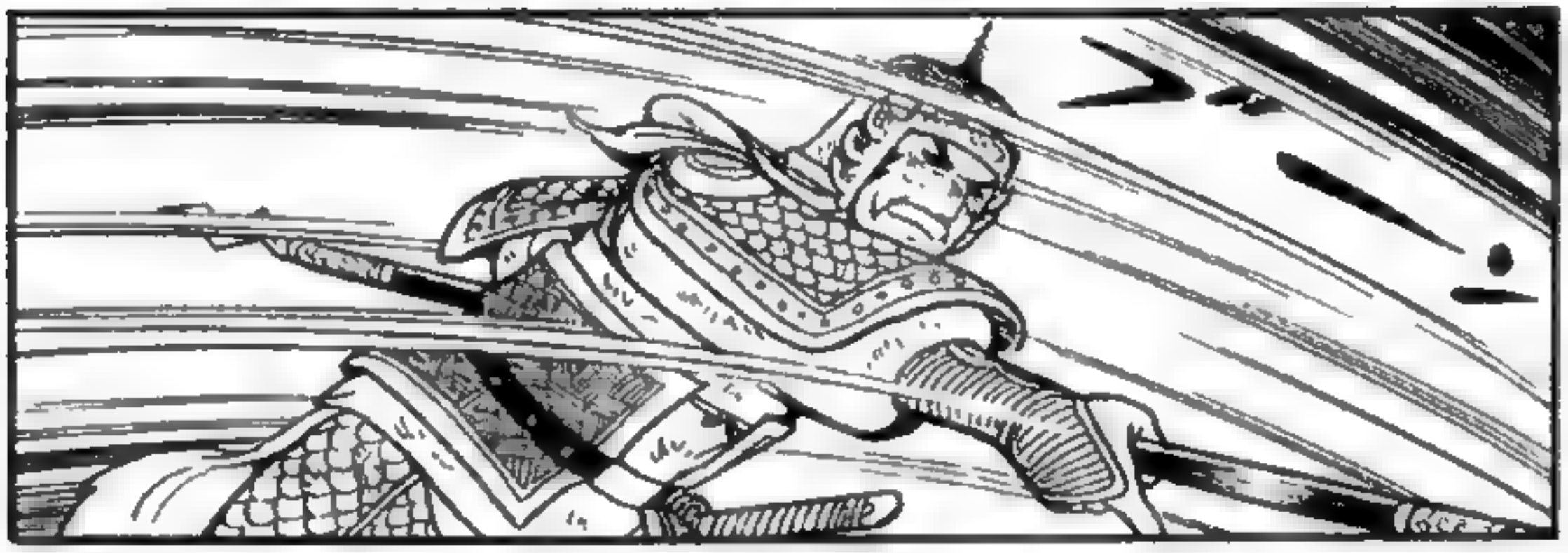
I WAS TOO EAGER TO PROVE I COULD STILL COMPETE WITH THE YOUNGER GENERATION...

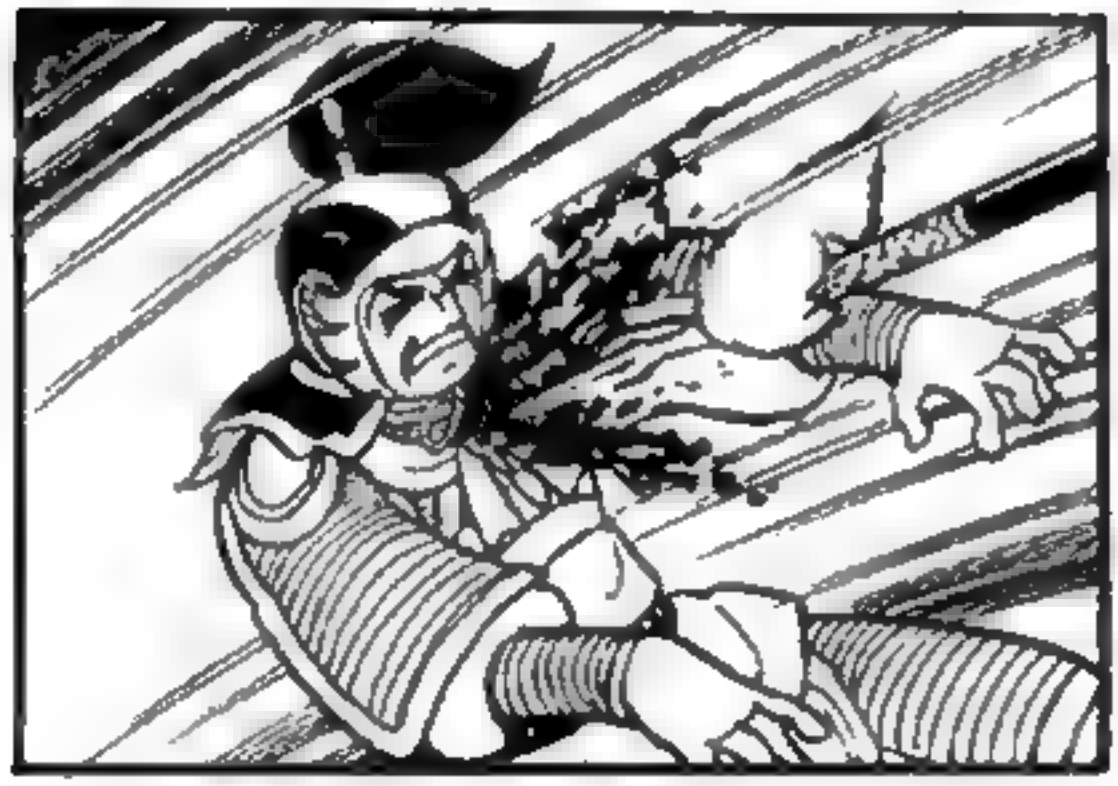
PERHAPS MY END HAS COME...

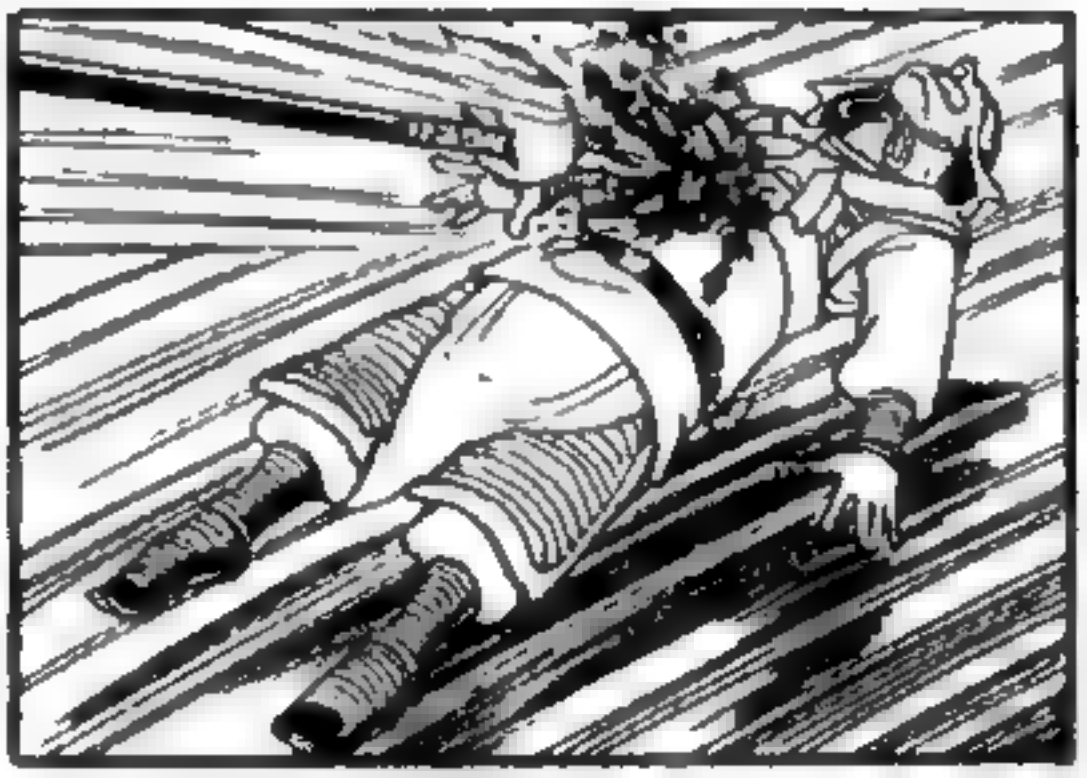
DAMN, HERE COMES ANOTHER WAVE...

COME AT ME, THEN!









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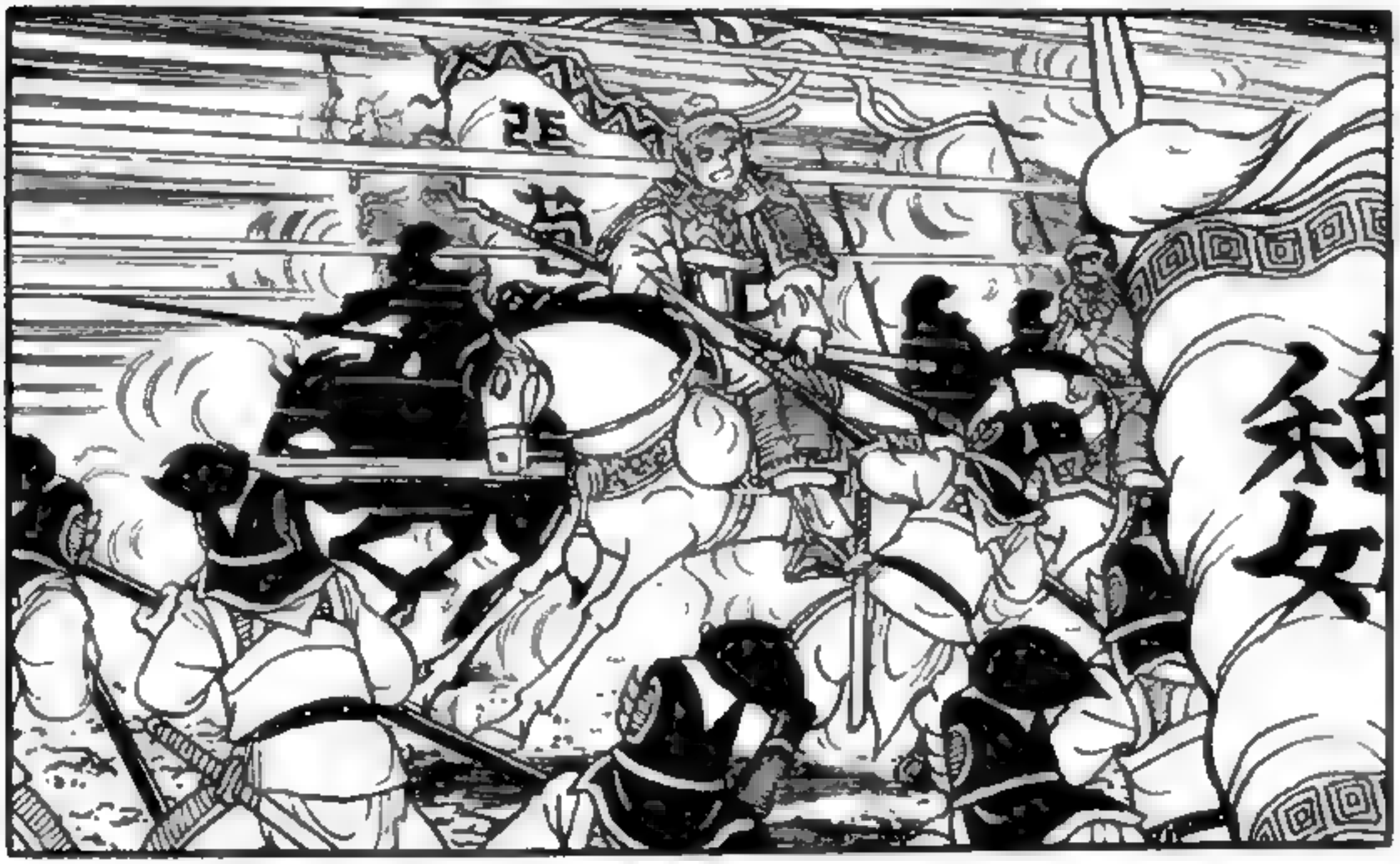
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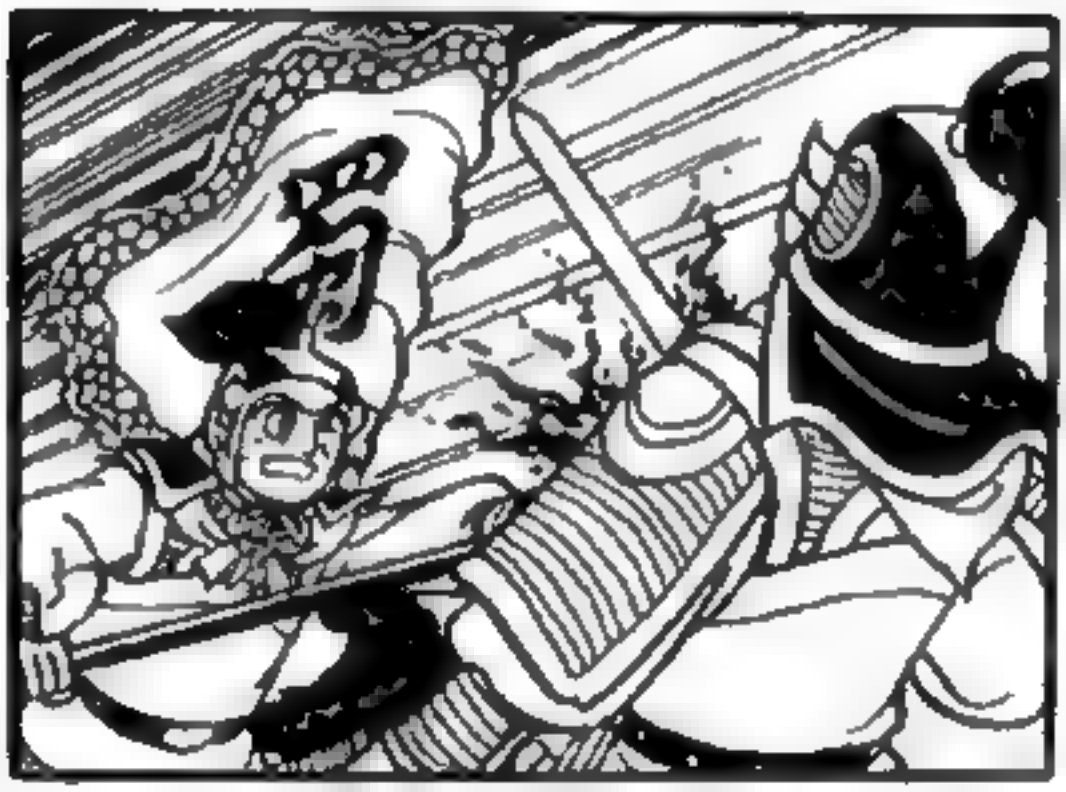
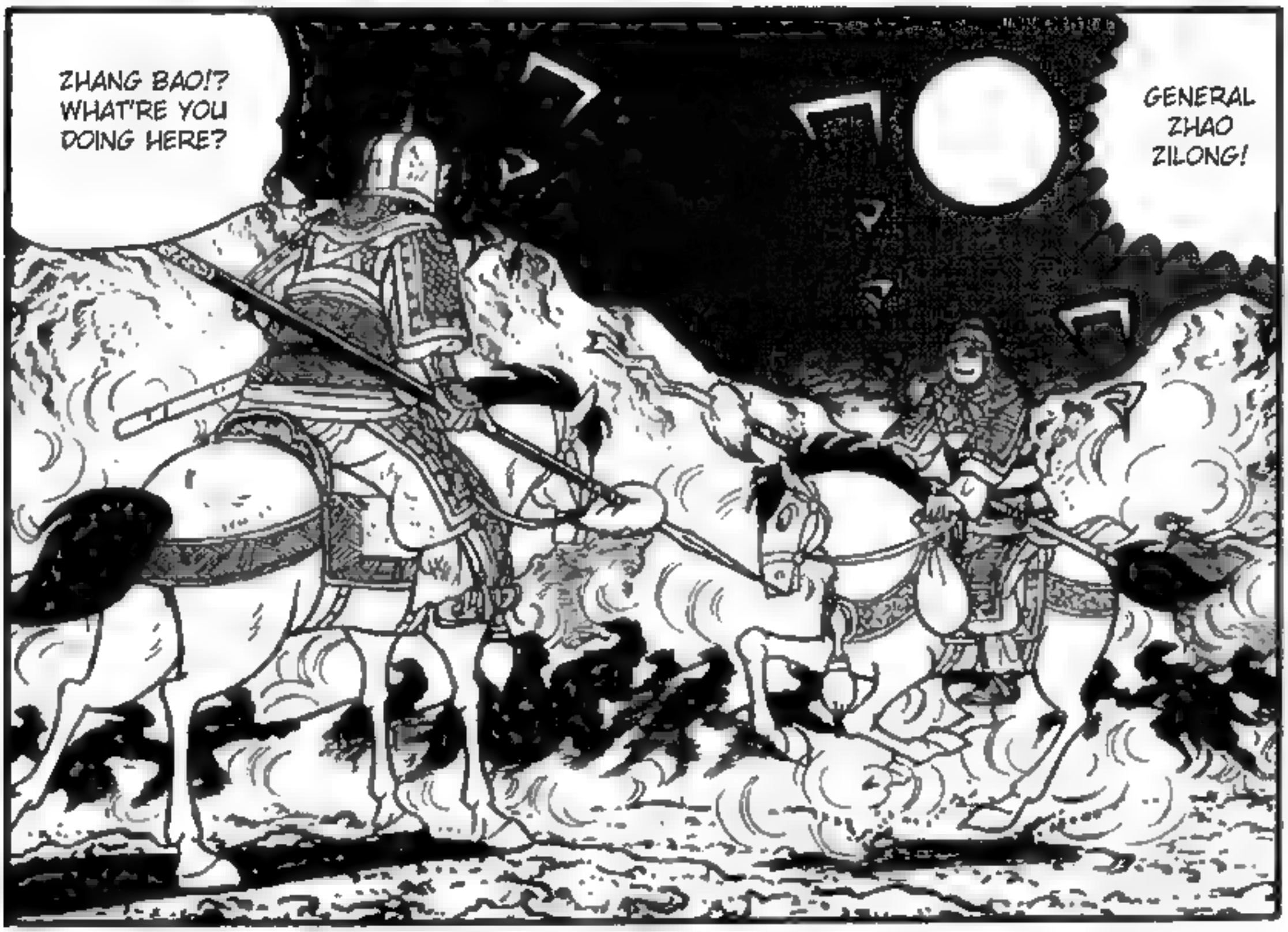
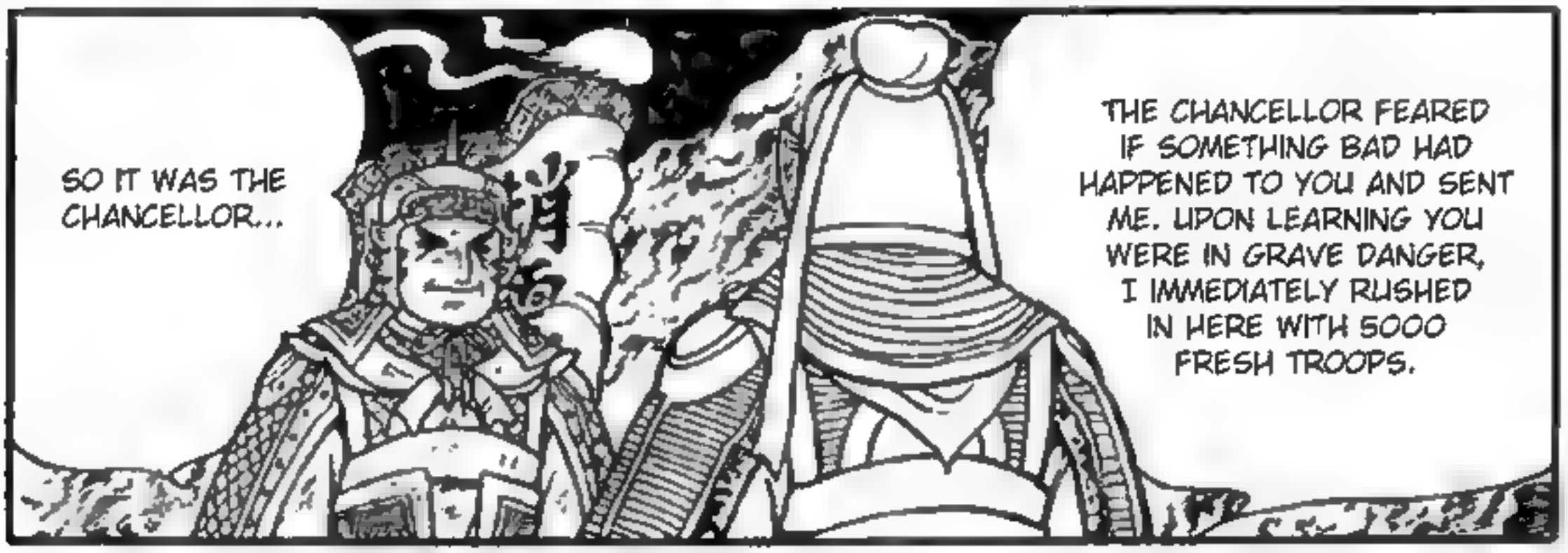
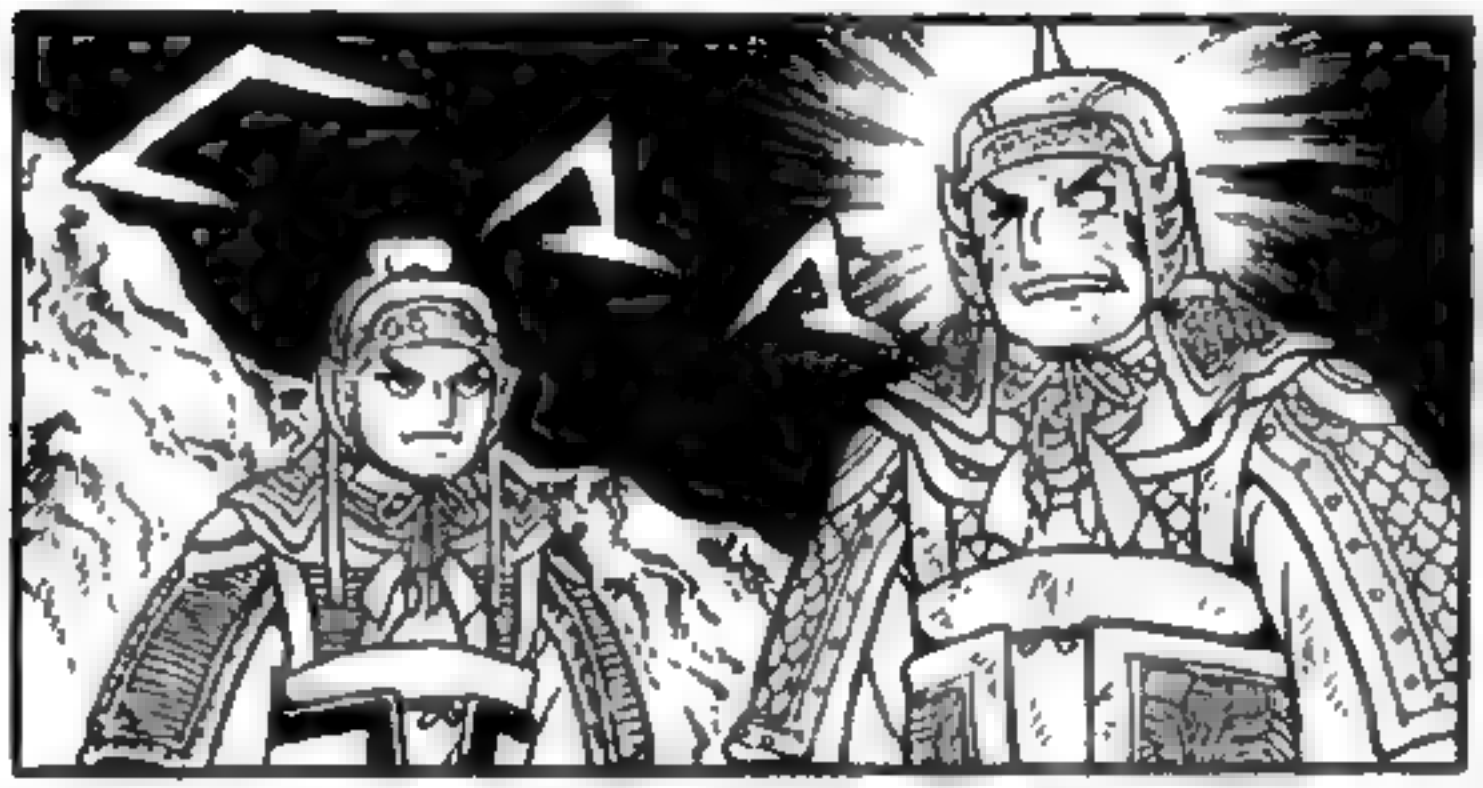



ZHANG BAO!? WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
GENERAL ZHAO ZILONG!


SO IT WAS THE CHANCELLOR...
THE CHANCELLOR FEARED IF SOMETHING BAD HAD HAPPENED TO YOU AND SENT ME. UPON LEARNING YOU WERE IN GRAVE DANGER, I IMMEDIATELY RUSHED IN HERE WITH 5000 FRESH TROOPS.

ON MY WAY HERE, I CAME ACROS A WEI GENERAL NAMED XUE ZE AND TOOK HIS HEAD.

AND WHOSE HEAD DO YOU HAVE THERE?



HA, WELL DONE.

MORE ENEMIES?

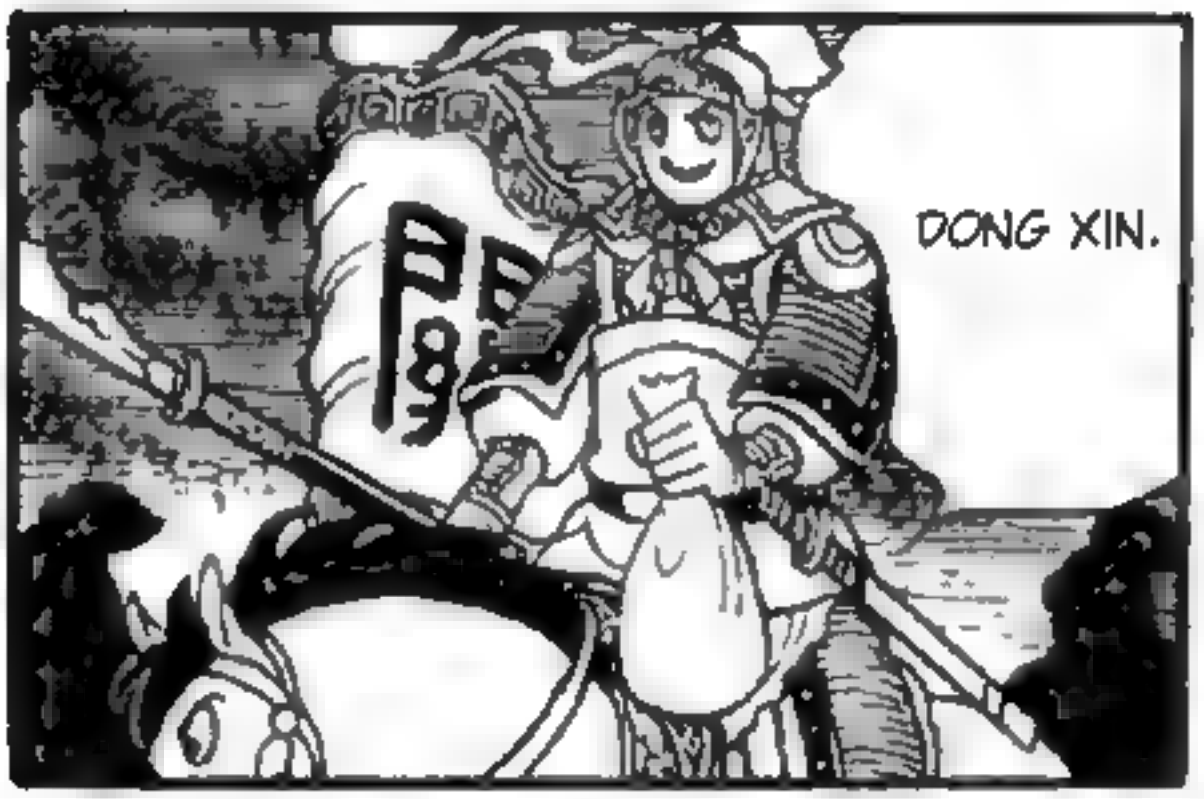
NO, THAT MUST BE GUAN XING!

AHH! THANK THE HEAVENS THAT YOU ARE STILL SAFE!

GUAN XING! GENERAL ZHAO ZILONG IS HERE!

SORRY TO HAVE YOU CLEAN UP AFTER MY MESS...

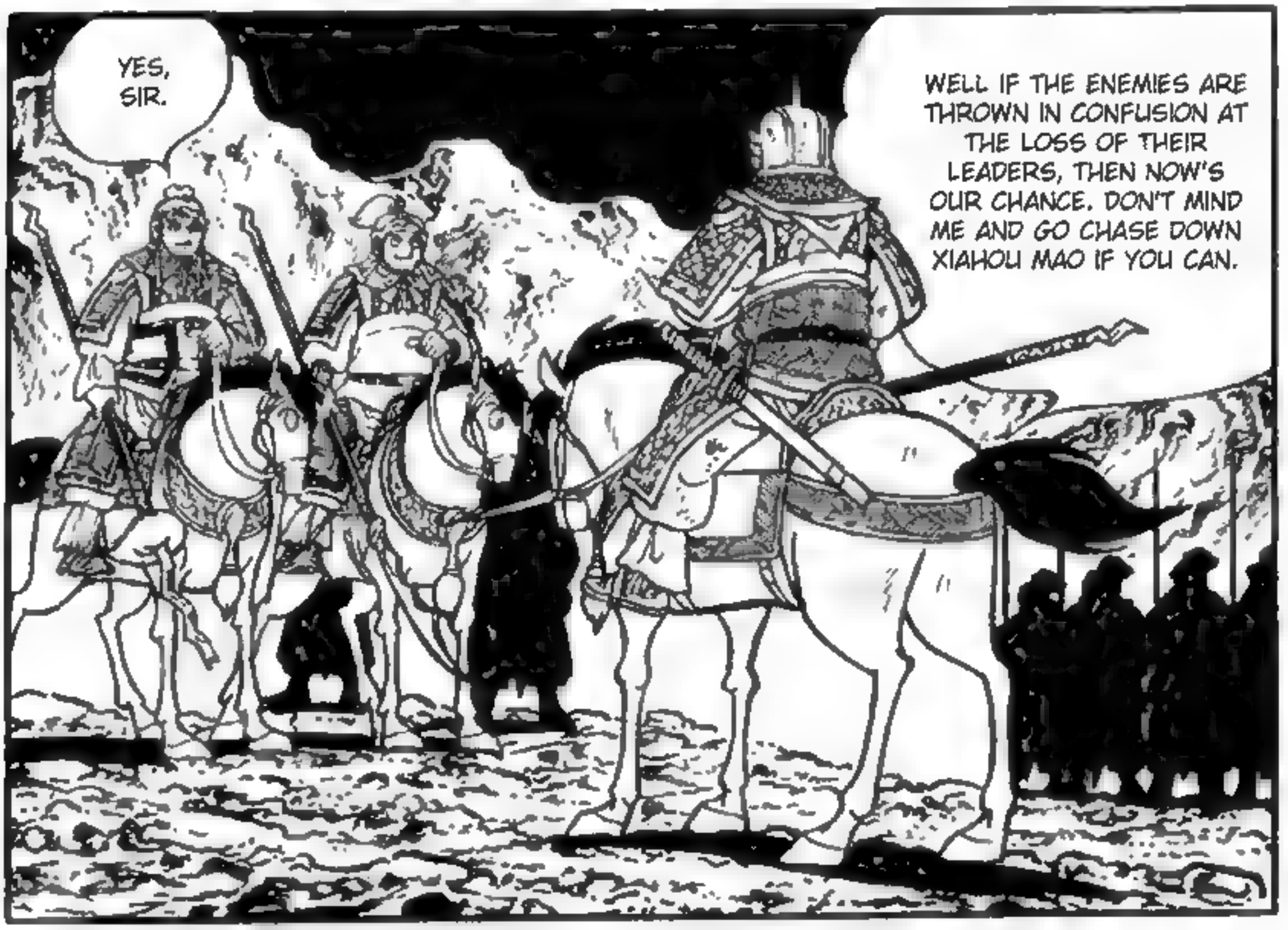
THE CHANCELLOR SENT ME HERE AS ADDITIONAL SUPPORT UPON LEARNING ABOUT YOUR DIRE SITUATION.


DONG XIN.

I SEE YOU'VE GOT A HEAD THERE TOO. WHOSE IS IT?

INDEED!
HA, JUST IMAGINE THE ENEMIES HAVING LOST 2 GENERALS ALL OF A SUDDEN!

I SLEW XUE ZE.


YES, SIR.
WELL IF THE ENEMIES ARE THROWN IN CONFUSION AT THE LOSS OF THEIR LEADERS, THEN NOW'S OUR CHANCE. DON'T MIND ME AND GO CHASE DOWN XIAHOU MAO IF YOU CAN.

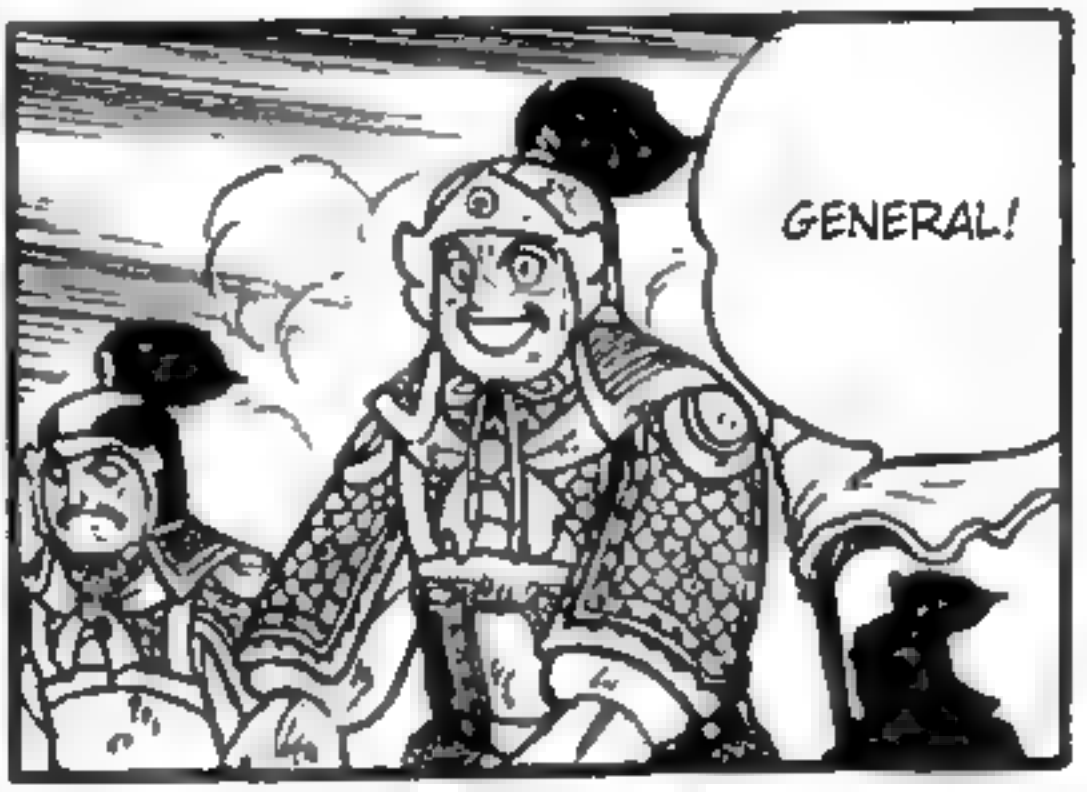
XIAHOU MAO IS NEXT!

LET'S PRESS ON OUR ADVANTAGE!

TIME WAITS FOR NO ONE, NOT EVEN THIS LAST MEMBER OF THE FIVE TIGER GENERALS. IT SEEMS I AM ALREADY IN ANOTHER ERA...

IT SEEMS MY PRIDE HAD BLINDED ME FROM NOTICING THE RISE OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION. GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI MUST BE HAPPY TO SEE THEIR SONS HAVE GROWN UP WELL.

AHH! YOU MADE IT OUT ALIVE TOO, DENG ZHI?


GENERAL!

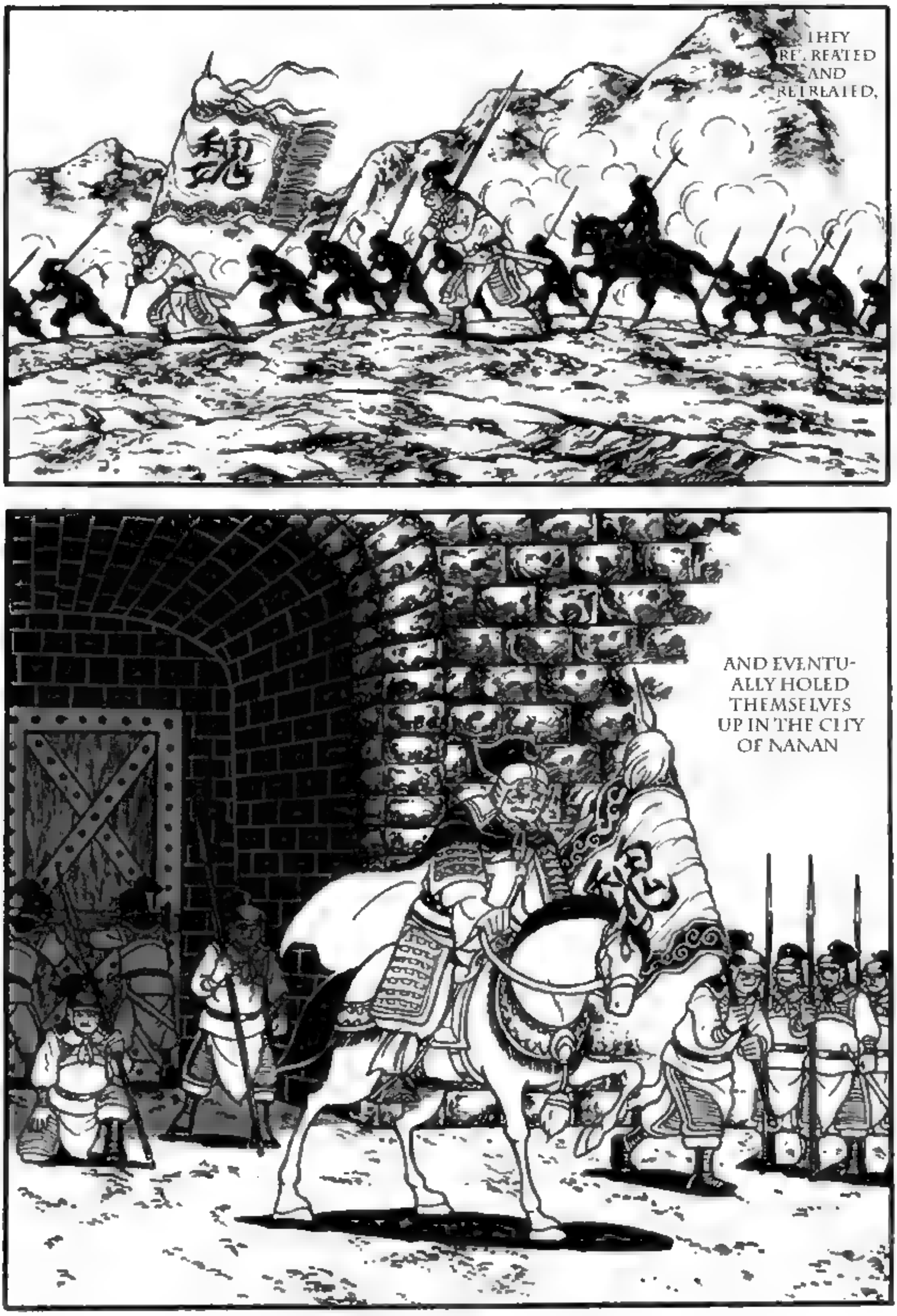
YES, THEIR SUDDEN ARRIVAL HAS THROWN THE ENEMIES INTO PANIC.
I WAS SAVED BY THE TIMELY ARRIVAL OF GUAN XING AND ZHANG BAO.

IT'S TIME TO SWITCH BACK TO THE OFFENSIVE, MEN!

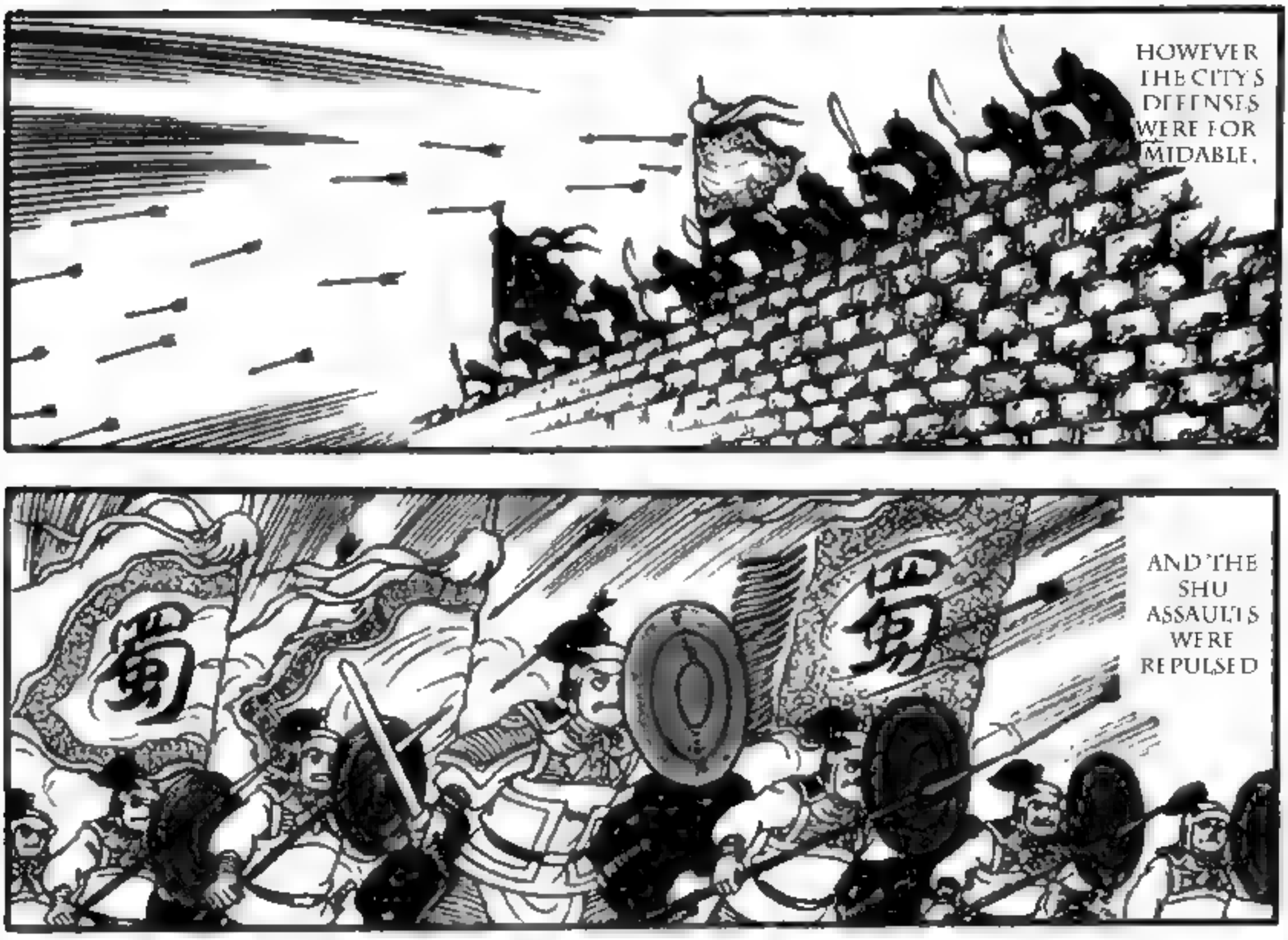
YES, SIR.
THERE IS NO BETTER CHANCE THAN NOW TO TAKE DOWN XIAHOU MAO. LET'S NOT LEAVE ALL THE WORK TO THOSE YOUNGSTERS.

THE REORGANIZED SHU VANGUARD NOW PRESSED ON THE ATTACK

DISMAYED BY THE ARRIVAL OF FRESH ENEMY REINFORCEMENTS AND ALREADY TIRED FROM AN ENTIRE DAY'S WORTH OF FIGHTING THE WEI TROOPS QUICKLY LOST GROUND


THEY
RETREATED
AND
RETREATED,
AND EVENTU-
ALLY HOLED
THEMSELVES
UP IN THE CITY
OF NANAN

ZHAO ZILONG, DENG ZHI, ZHANG BAO, AND GUAN XING'S TROOPS SURROUNDED NANAN AND LAY SIEGE TO IT


HOWEVER THE CITY'S DEFENSES WERE FOR MIDABLE.
蜀
AND THE SHU ASSAULTS WERE REPULSED
AND SO THE SIEGE CONTINUED ON INCON CLUSIVELY
趙
蜀

BUT THEN KONGMING AND HIS CENTRAL ARMY ARRIVED
WELCOME, CHANCELLOR.
GOOD WORK TO ALL OF YOU SO FAR.

THE HIGH WALLS AND DEEP MOAT ARE MAK'NG PROGRESS VERY SLOW.

SO HOW IS THE SIEGE GOING?

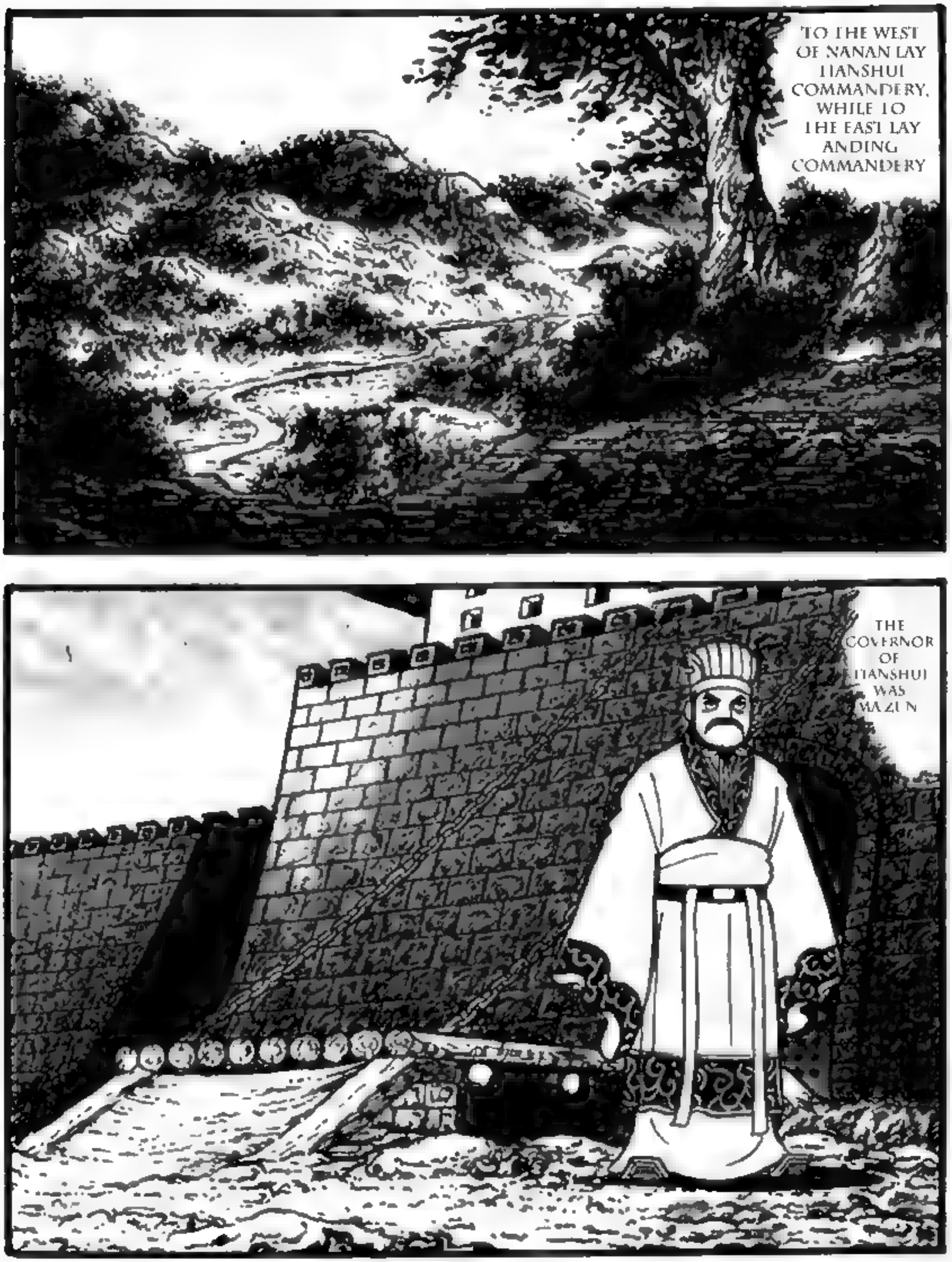
BUT XIAHOU MAO IS NOT ONLY THE CURRENT WEI COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, BUT AN IMPERIAL SON-IN-LAW TO THE WEI EMPEROR. WE CANNOT LET SUCH A VALUABLE PRIZE ESCAPE WHEN WE'VE GOT HIM HOLED UP HERE.

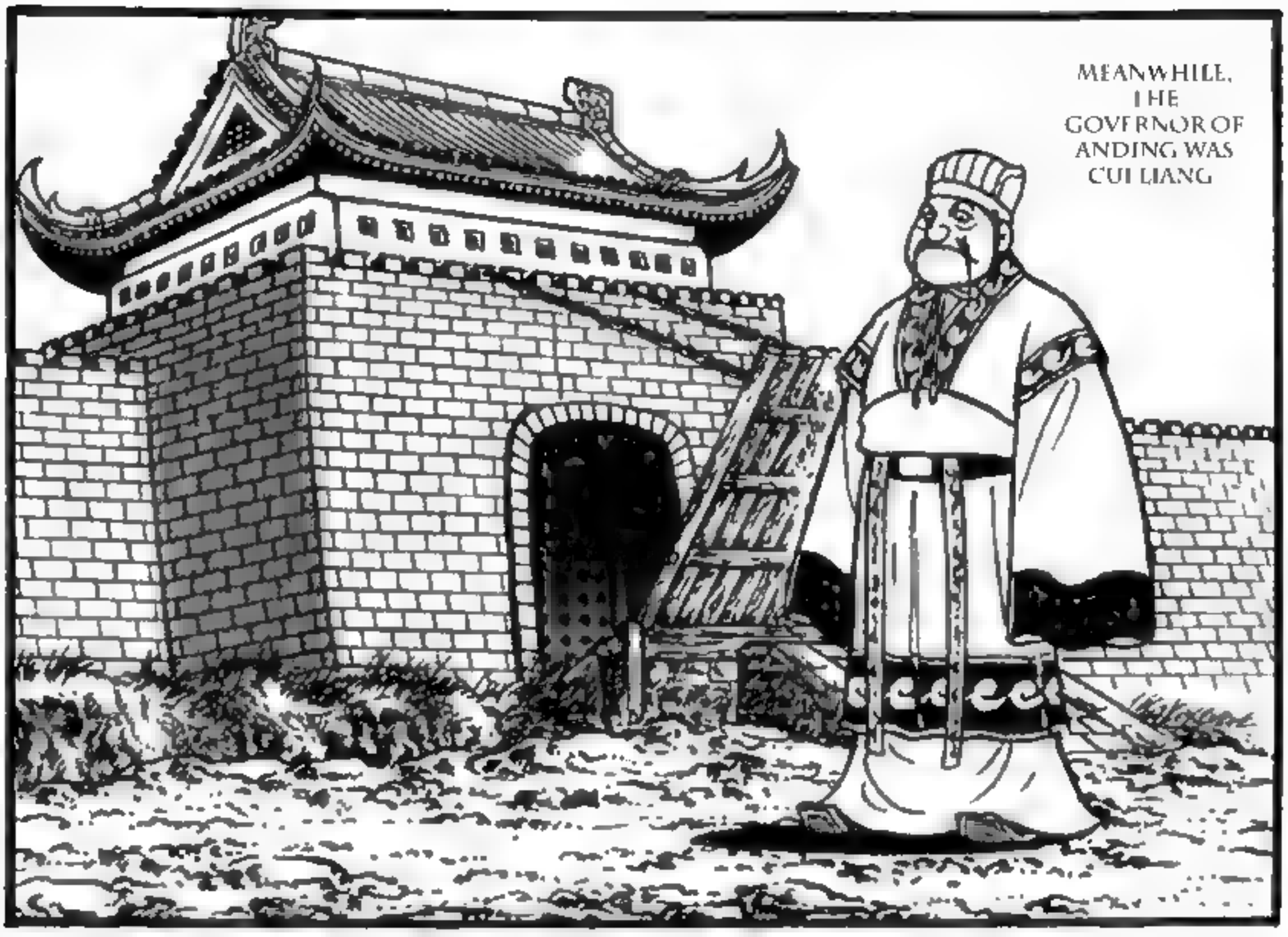
OTHERWISE, IT IS POSSIBLE A SEPARATE WEI ARMY WILL BE SENT TO ATTACK HANZHONG WHILE WE'RE TIED UP HERE.

HMM, I SEE. IT IS NOT TO OUR BENEFIT WASTING TIME ON THIS CITY THEN.

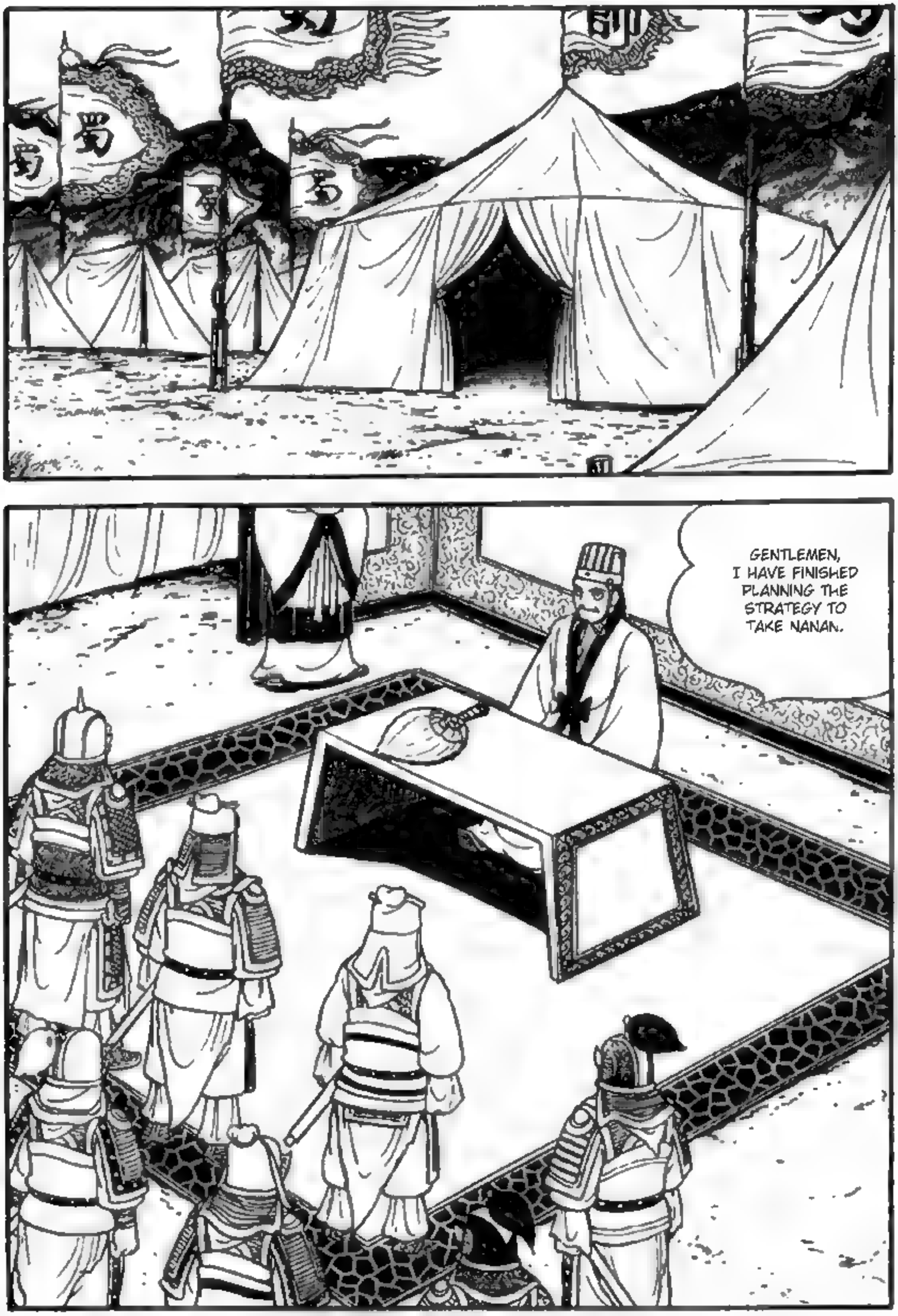
FEAR NOT, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LETTING HIM GO EITHER.

CAPTURE OF ANDING




MEANWHILE, THE GOVERNOR OF ANDING WAS CUI LIANG

UPON HEARING THAT SHU ARMIES HAD LAID SIEGE TO NANAN, THE TWO GOVERNORS TIGHTENED THE DEFENSES TO THEIR CITIES


GENTLEMEN, I HAVE FINISHED PLANNING THE STRATEGY TO TAKE NANAN.

YES?

WEI YAN.

UNDERSTOOD, CHANCELLOR.

I WANT YOU TO... *WHISPER WHISPER*

YES?

YES?

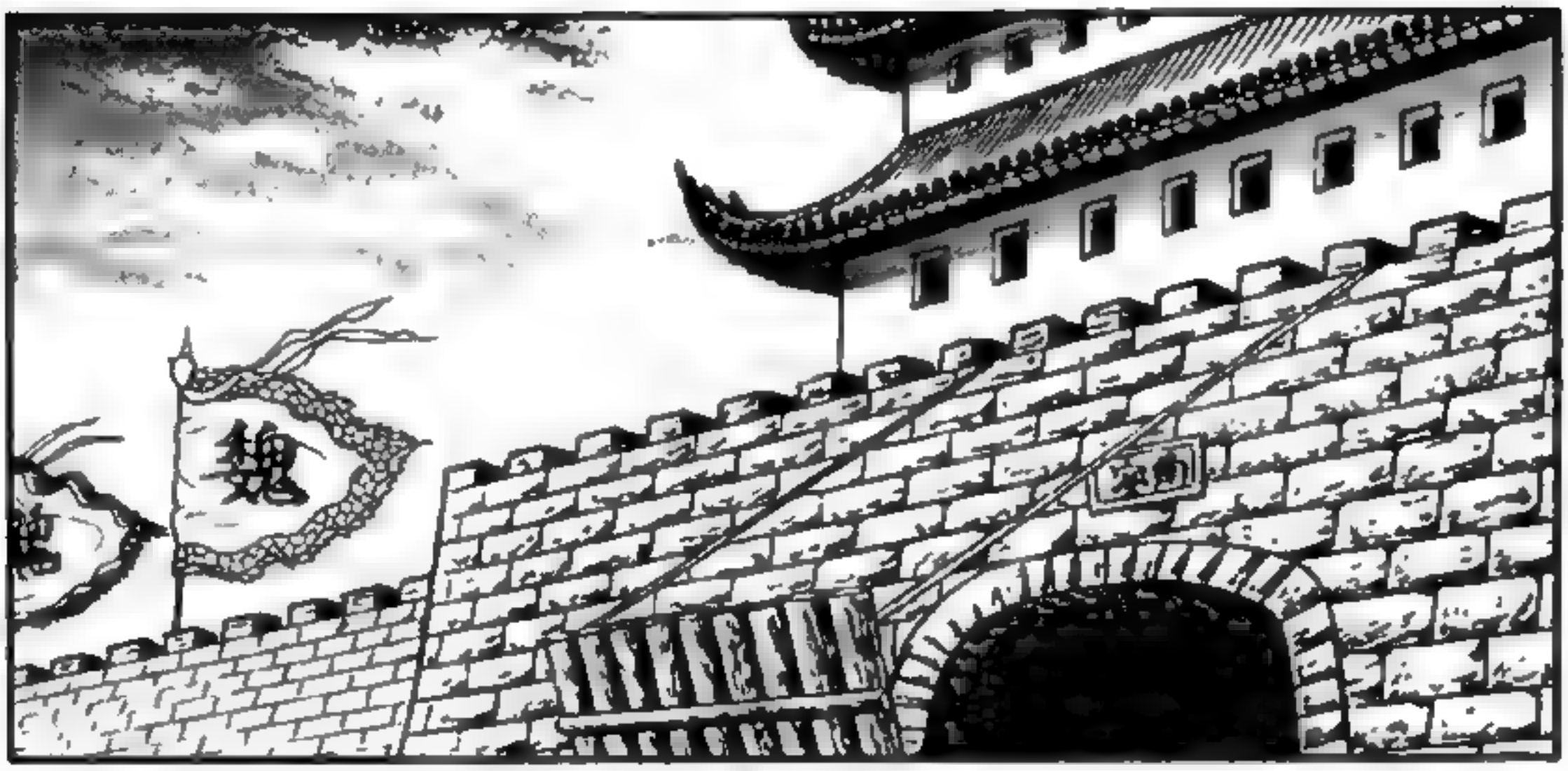
GUAN XING, ZHANG BAO.

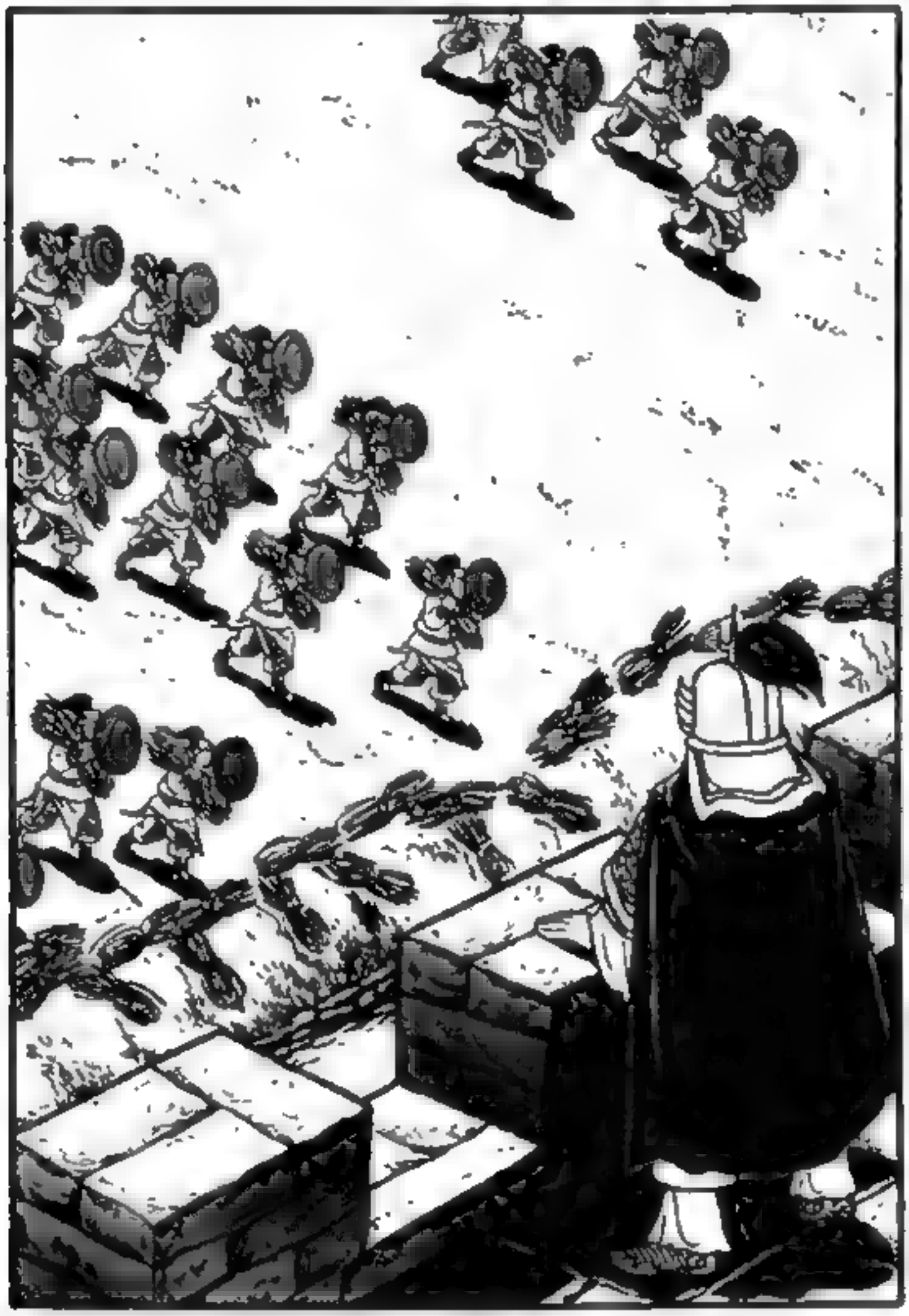
UNDER-STOOD.

I WANT YOU TO... *WHISPER WHISPER*

THE REST OF YOU GATHER FIREWOOD AND START A RUMOUR THAT WE'RE PLANNING TO BURN NANAN DOWN.

AS SOON AS KONGMING GAVE THE WORD, EACH OFFICER SET OUT TO CARRY THEIR ORDERS





HM?
?

BURN DOWN THE WHA?

I'VE HEARD SOME OF THE SOLDIERS TALKING ABOUT BURNING THE CITY...

IT SEEMS THE ENEMIES ARE UP TO SOMETHING.

IS THIS REALLY THE BEST THAT THE FAMOUS KONGMING COULD COME UP WITH?

AHAHAHA! THEY CAN'T BE SERIOUS! THEY THINK THEY CAN BURN DOWN THIS CITY ALONG WITH ITS MOAT AND THICK STONE WALLS?

ANDING
崔

OPEN THE GATES!

I AM PEI XU, RETAINER TO COMMANDER XIAHOU MAO. I HAVE BEEN SENT HERE TO SPEAK WITH GOVERNOR CUI LIANG.

WHO GOES THERE!?

OPEN THE GATES!

THEN WE CAN'T JUST IGNORE HIS RETAINER.

XIAHOU MAO? THE COMMANDER OF THE WESTERN FORCES AND IMPERIAL SON-IN-LAW?

GREETINGS. I AM PEI XU, SENT HERE ON BEHALF OF COMMANDER XIAHOU MAO.

I AM CUI LIANG, THE GOVERNOR OF ANDING.

YES, IF REINFORCE-MENTS COULD ARRIVE TO ATTACK THE REAR OF THE ENEMIES LAYING SIEGE TO NANAN, THEN THE CITY'S GARRISON COULD ALSO COME OUT TO ATTACK.

I AM TO SEND REINFORCE-MENTS?

NANAN IS CURRENTLY BESIEGED AND IN DIRE NEED FOR REINFORCEMENTS FROM ANDING AND TIANSHUI.

YES.

JUST TO BE SAFE, DO YOU HAVE A LETTER FROM XIAHOU MAO WITH HIS SIGNATURE?

EXACTLY.

A COMBINED ATTACK FROM THE FRONT AND REAR?

OOPS, MY APOLOGIES. IT SEEMS MY SWEAT HAS STAINED THE LETTER A BIT.

NOW EXCUSE ME FOR I MUST GO AND CONVEY THE SAME MESSAGE TO THE GOVERNOR OF TIANSHUI.

HMM...

NANAN EAGERLY AWAITS YOUR ASSISTANCE.

Y-YES...

THE SHU ARMY BESIEGING NANAN CURRENTLY IS NOT THEIR ENTIRE FORCE, GOVERNOR.

THIS ALL SEEMS A BIT SUSPICIOUS. I HAD HEARD THE SHU FORCE IS 300,000 STRONG. HOW MUCH HELP CAN OUR 4000 GARRISON TROOPS HERE REALLY PROVIDE?

I THINK SO, SIR.

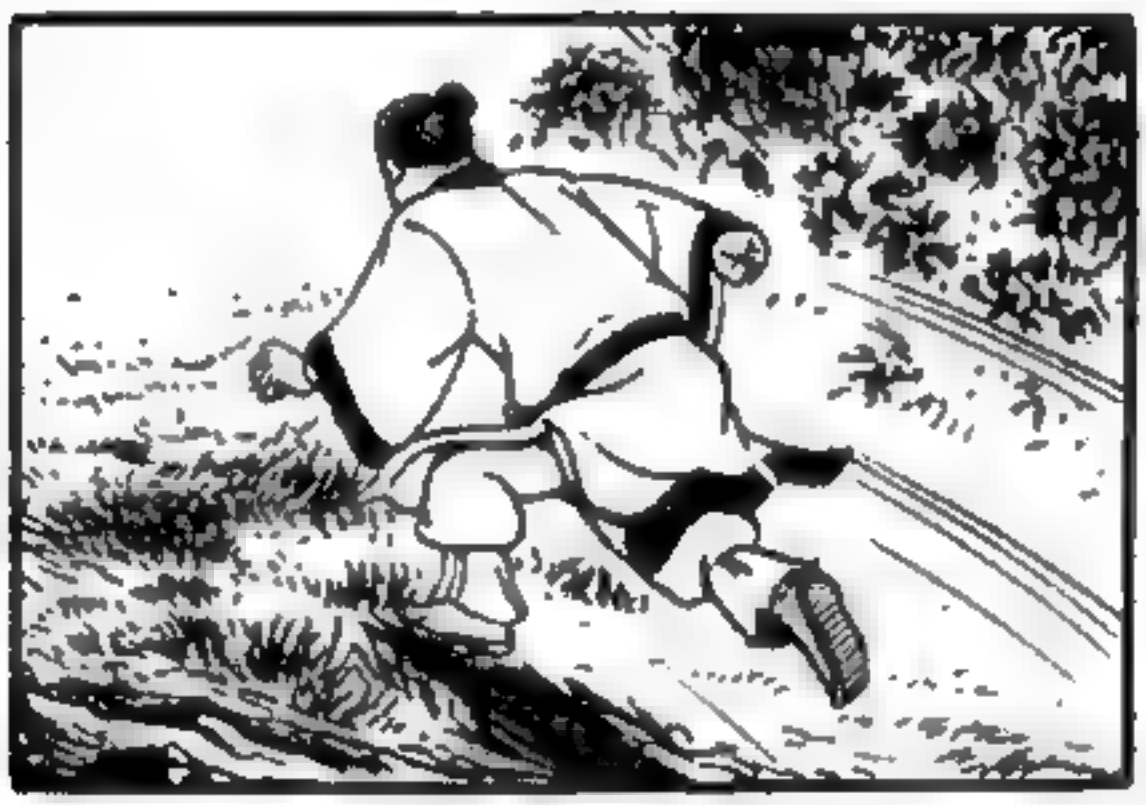
SO THEN THE FORCE BESIEGING NANAN CAN BE DEFEATED WITH THE HELP OF ANDING AND TIANSHUI'S GARRISON?

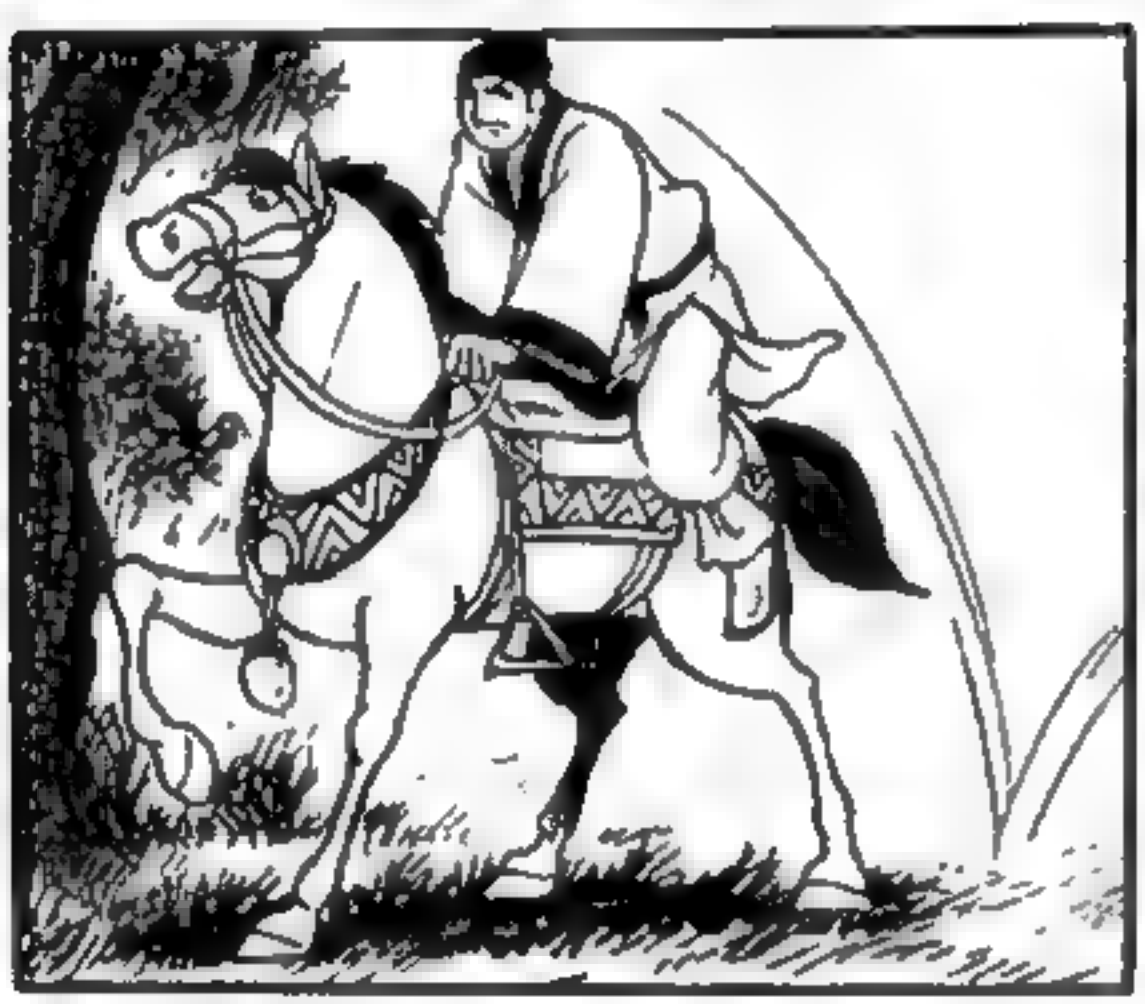
LAST I HEARD, THEIR REAR ARMY WAS AT MIANYANG, LEFT ARMY AT YANGPING PASS, AND RIGHT ARMY AT SHICHENG.

VERY WELL, GET THE GARRISON READY TO MARCH OUT.

HMM...

MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE CAN'T JUST IGNORE XIAHOU MANG'S PLIGHT. HE IS AN IMPERIAL SON-IN-LAW, AFTER ALL, AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF REFUSING TO LEND HIM AID WILL BE SEVERE





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GOOD, LIGHT THE FIRE.

YES, WITH 4000 TROOPS.

CUI LIANG HAS MARCHED OUT FROM ANDING?

YES, SIR.

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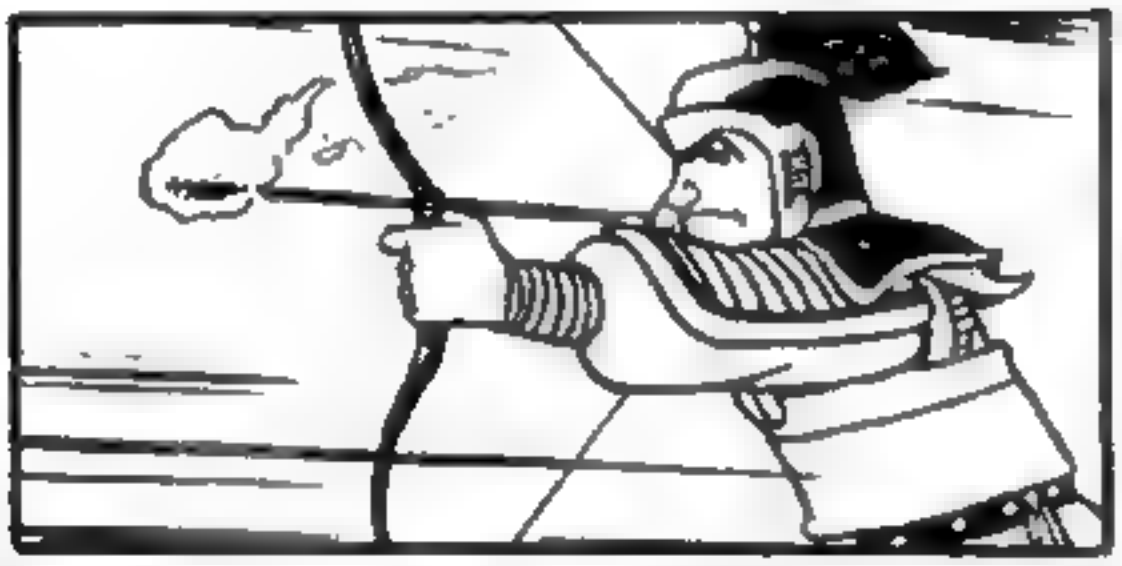
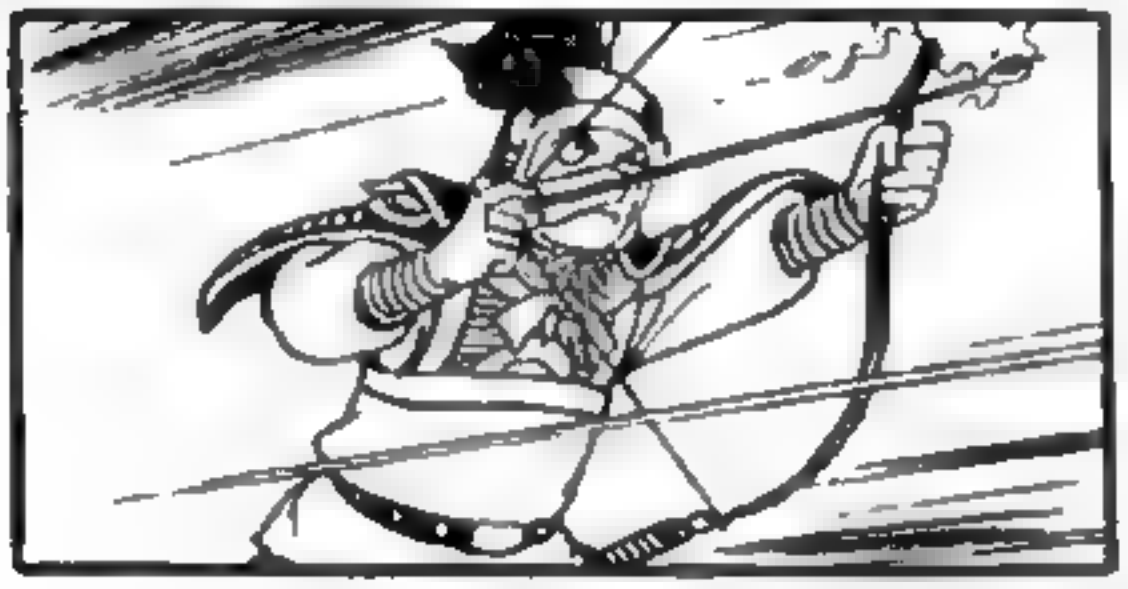
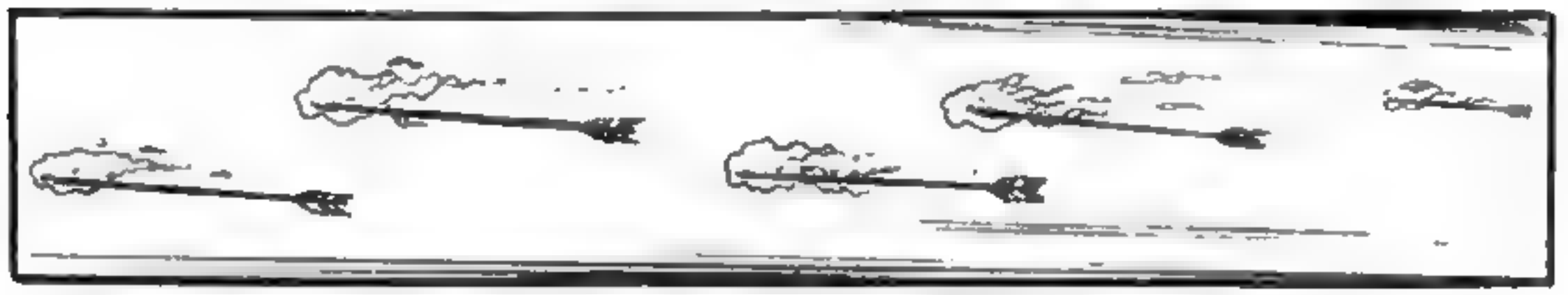
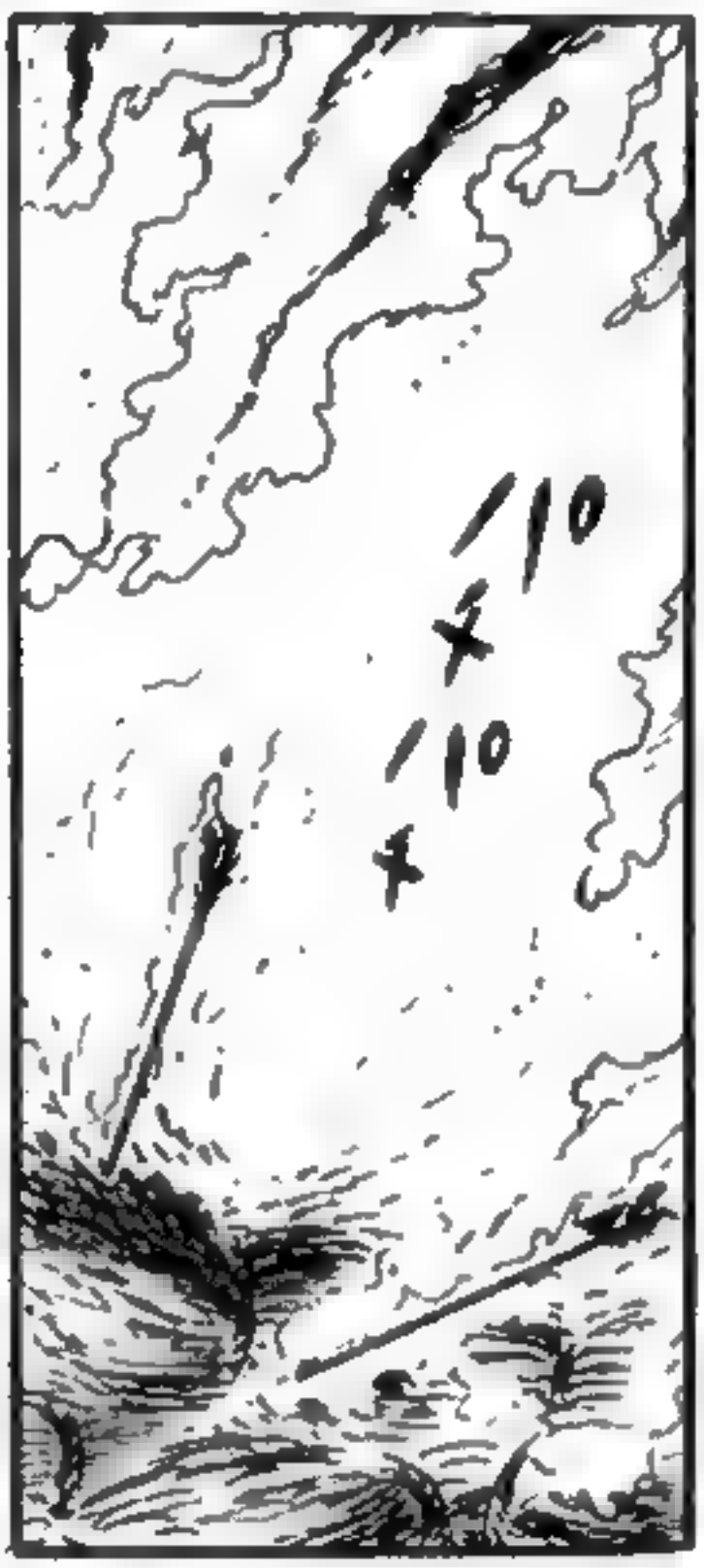
START THE FIRE!







LOOK, THE ENEMIES HAVE STARTED THEIR FIRE.



DO THEY REALLY EXPECT TO BURN DOWN THE WHOLE CITY WITH JUST THAT?

AHH!

QUICKLY, MEN! THE CITY'S IN TROUBLE!

THERE'S SMOKE RISING UP FROM NANAN!

HM?

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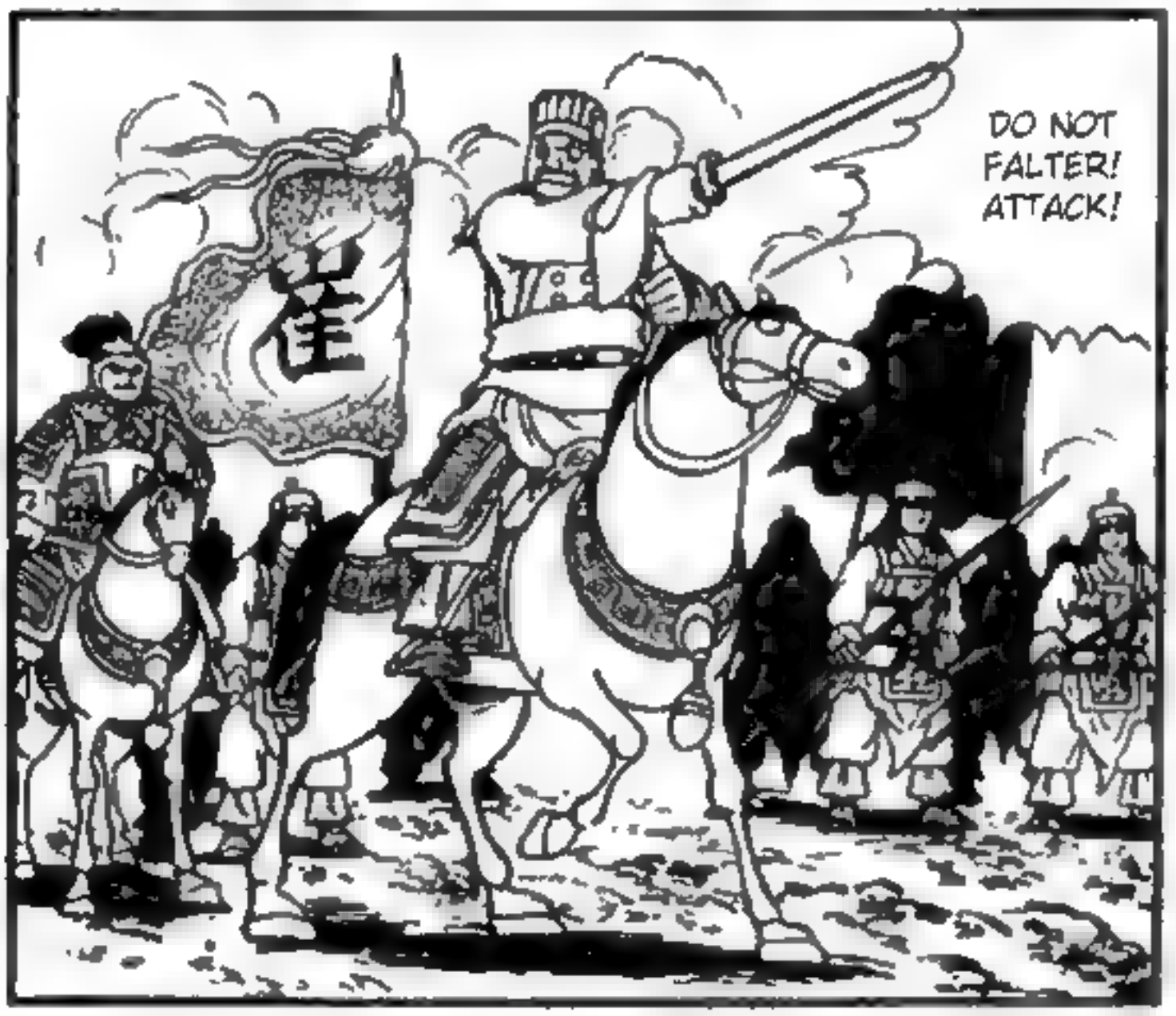
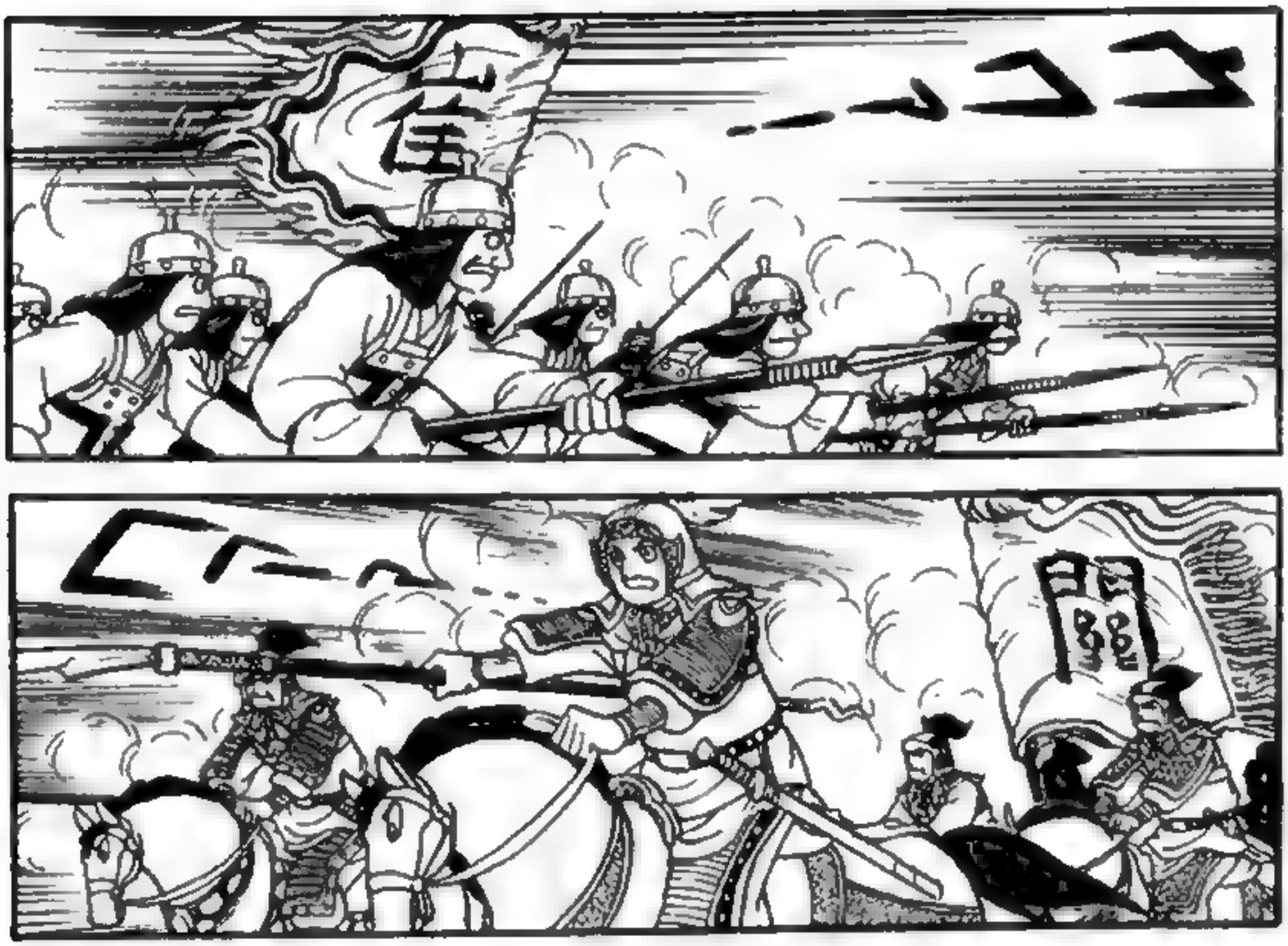
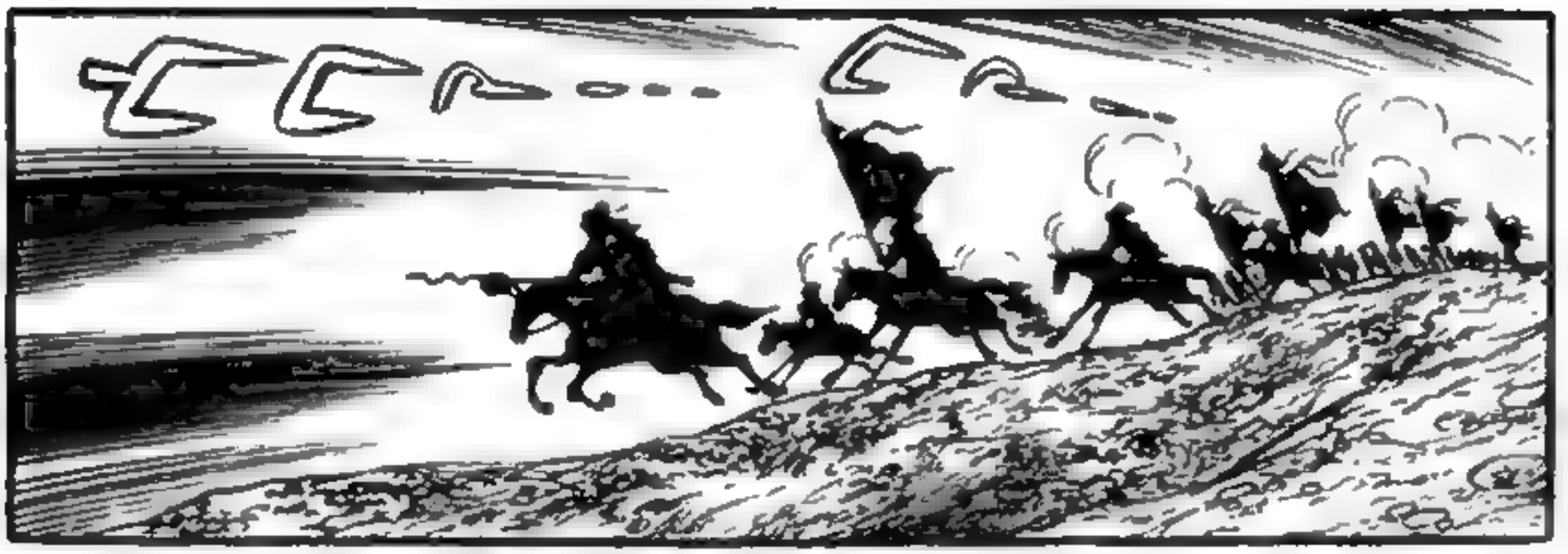


DO NOT FALTER! ATTACK!

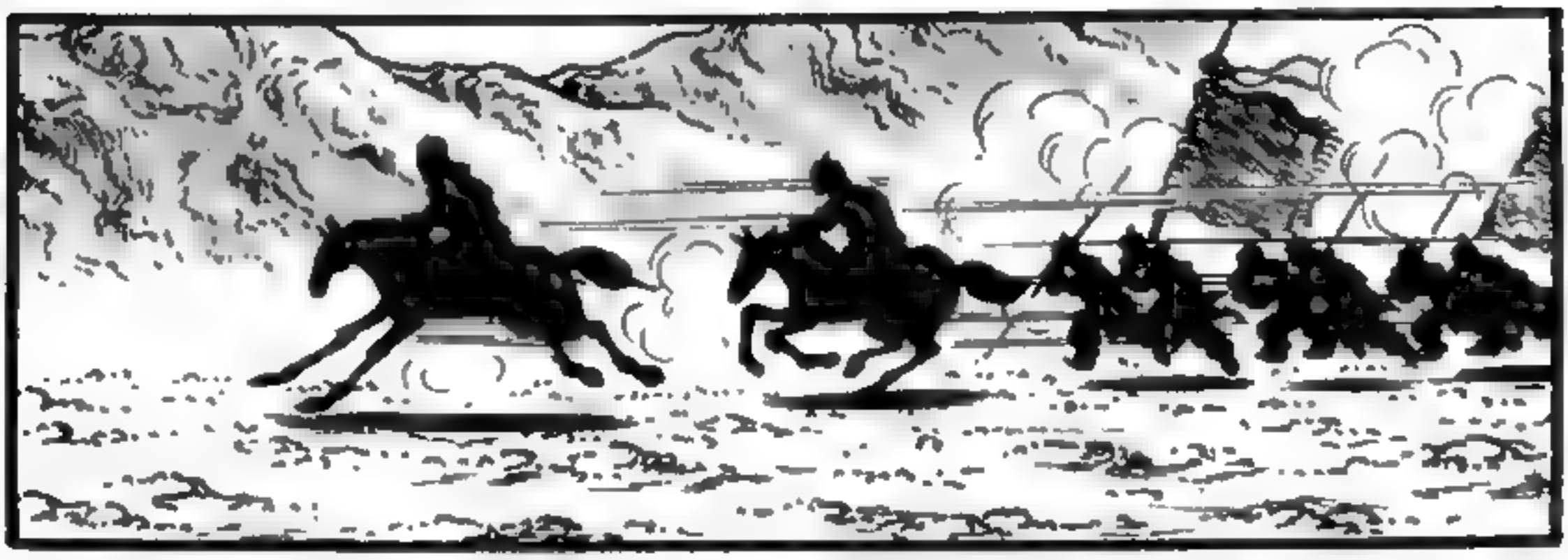
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, CUI LIANG.

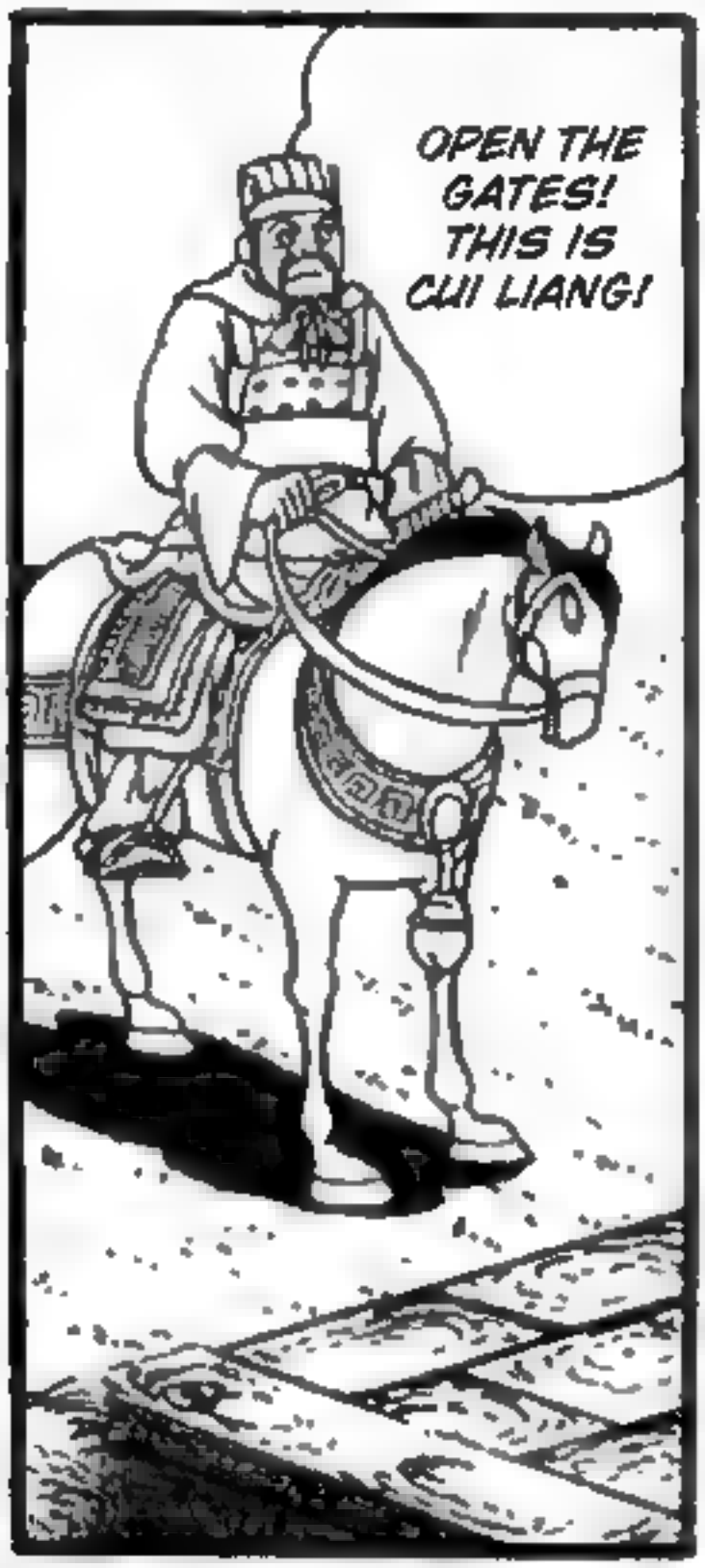

WHA?
CLANG!
CLANG!

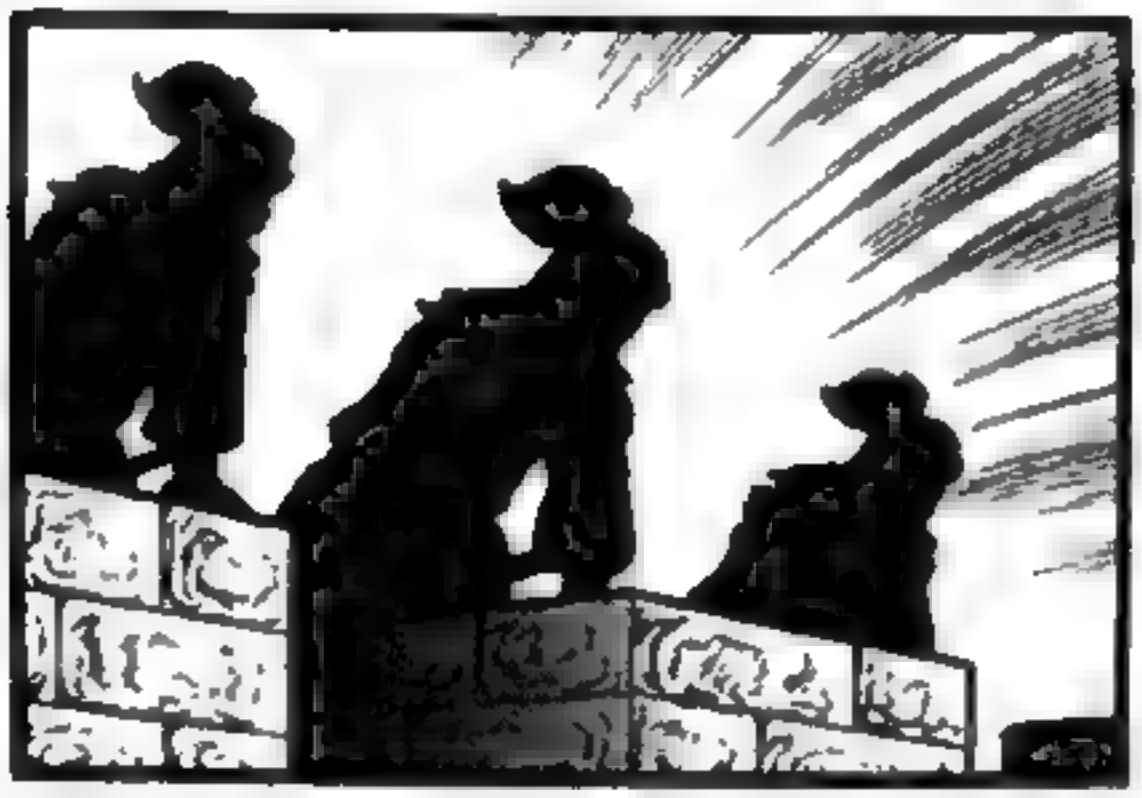

CURSES, IT WAS A TRAP!
ENEMIES HAVE APPEARED TO OUR REAR, SIR!
DON'T LET 'EM ESCAPE!
RETREAT BACK TO ANDING!

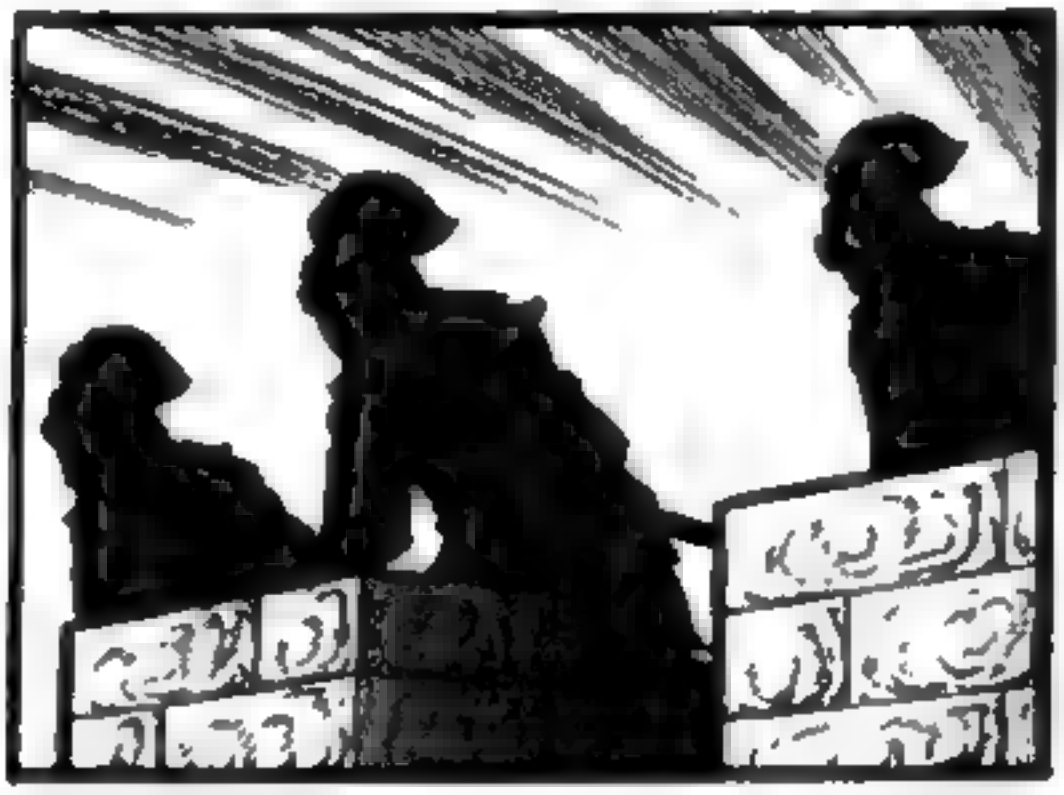
AFTER THEM!

AHH! THEY'RE FLEEING!




OPEN THE GATES! THIS IS CUI LIANG!



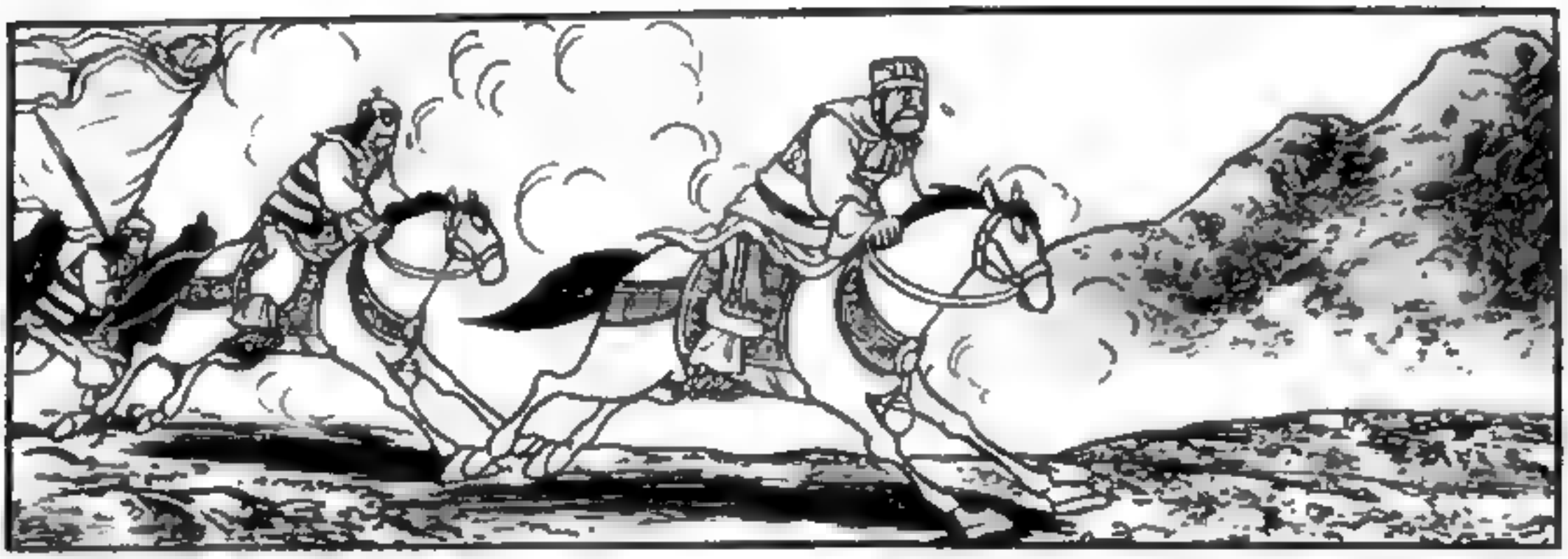


HAHAHA! WE'VE ALREADY TAKEN OVER ANDING BY DISGUISING AS YOUR TROOPS AND ASKING FOR THE GATES TO BE OPENED!

W-WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS!?

WE MUST HEAD TO TIANSHUI!

WHAT!



AHH!

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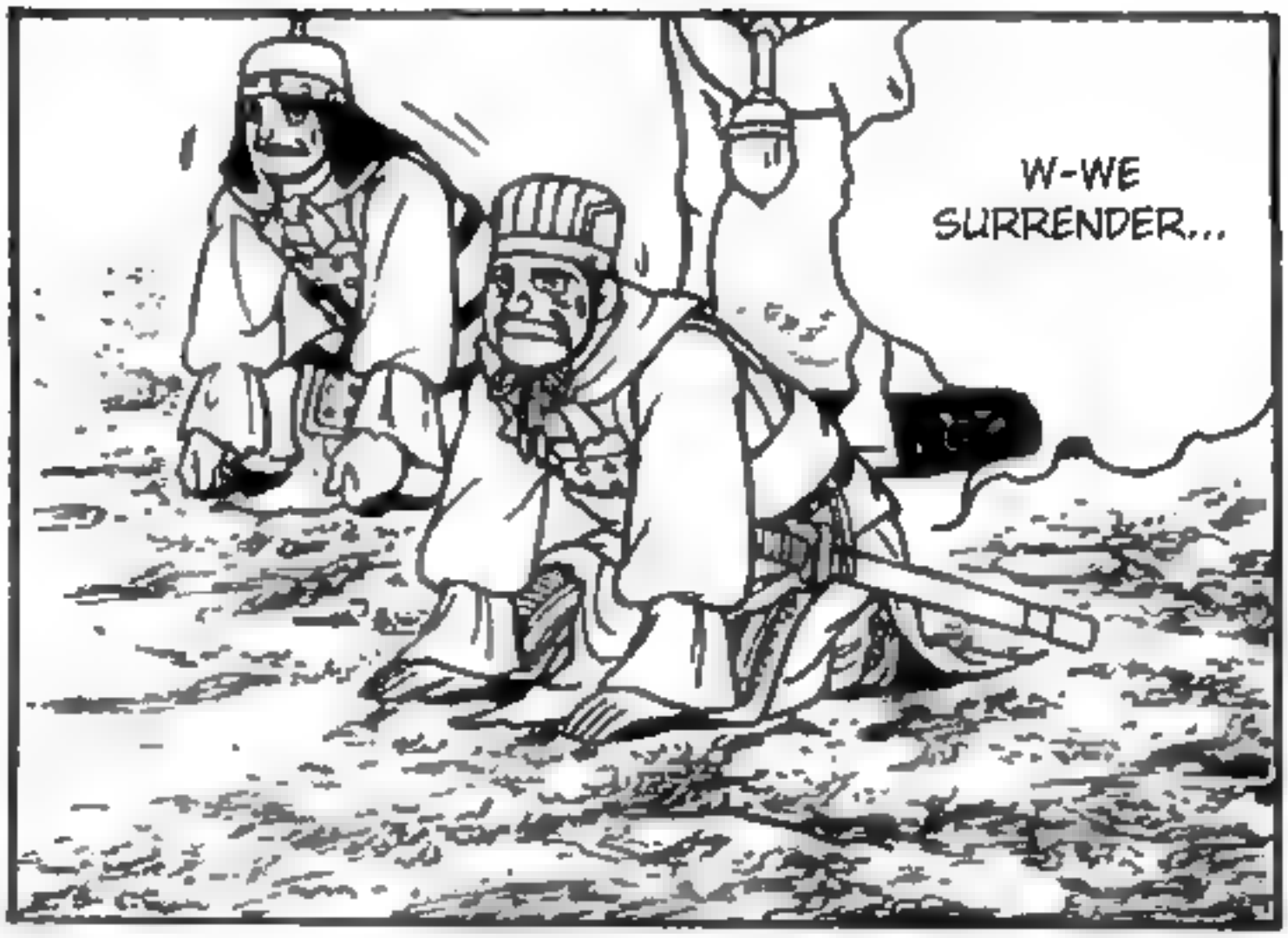
YOU ARE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED, CUI LIANG.

MNN...

WILL YOU SURRENDER OR DIE FIGHTING?

諸葛亮
GOOD, THEN LET'S ENTER ANDING TOGETHER.


W-WE SURRENDER...

THE FIRST STEP IN KONGMING'S PLAN TO TAKE NANAN, THE CAPTURE OF ANDING WAS NOW COMPLETE
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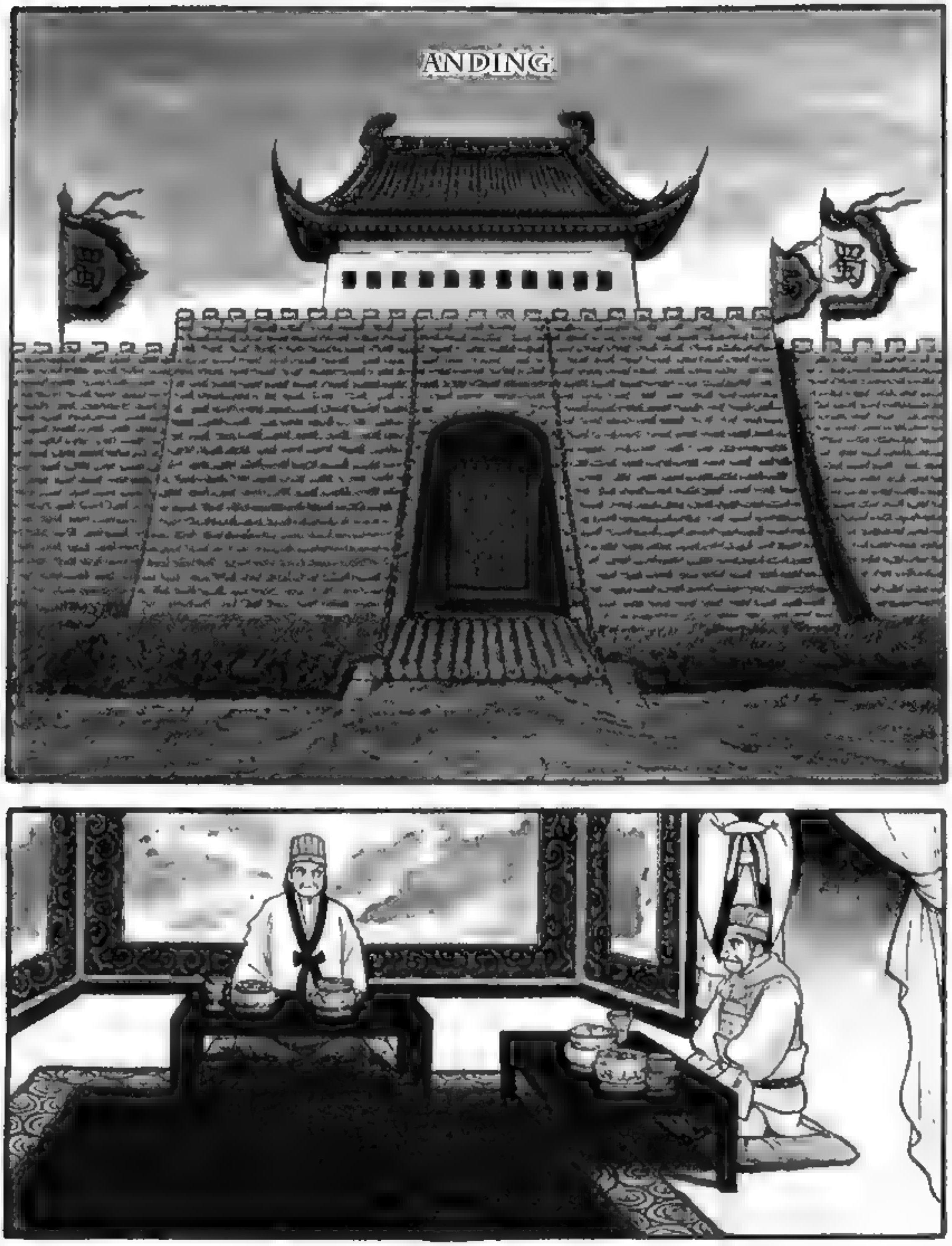
ANDING
蜀
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WELL... YES, WE ARE ON FAMILIAR TERMS, BEING GOVERNORS OF NEIGHBOURING COMMAND-ERIES.

MIGHT YOU BE ACQUAINTED AT ALL WITH THE GOVERNOR OF NANAN?

SO WOULD YOU SAY HE IS ABLE TO TRUST YOU?

YES, WE REGARD ONE ANOTHER LIKE BROTHERS...

WHAT IS HIS NAME?

YANG LING.

IF SO, THEN GO CONVINCE YANG LING TO ARREST XIAHOU MAO AND TURN HIM OVER TO ME.

THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO SAVE YOUR FRIEND.

NANAN WILL FALL EVENTUALLY, AND IT IS UP TO YOU WHETHER YOUR FRIEND WILL DIE WHEN IT DOES.

TRUE, BUT HOW LONG DO YOU THINK AN UNEXPERIENCED COMMANDER LIKE XIAHOU MAO CAN SECURE NANAN?

I'M AFRAID HE WILL NOT SURRENDER SO EASILY...

VERY WELL, I WILL TRY MY BEST, SIR.

OF COURSE.

BUT IN RETURN, PLEASE DRAW OFF YOUR BESIEGERS SOME DISTANCE BACK SO I MAY SAFELY ENTER THE CITY.

HM?

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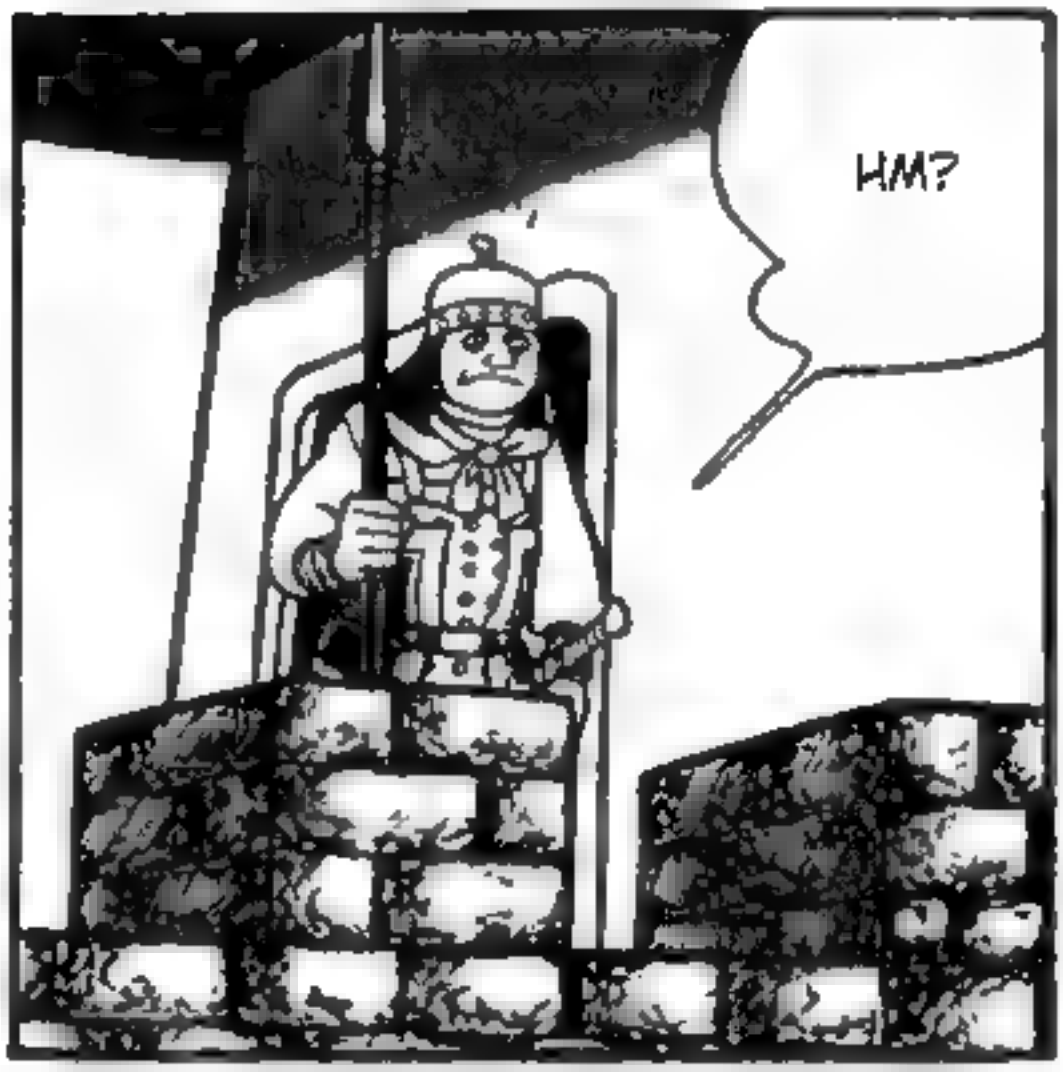
AHH!
THE ENEMIES ARE WITH-DRAWING!?


HM?

I AM CUI LIANG, GOVERNOR OF ANDING! I REQUEST A MEETING WITH YANG LING!

OPEN THE GATES!

OHH! CUI LIANG!

IT'S A BIT OF A LONG STORY.

WHAT IS IT?

I'M AFRAID SO.

WHAT!? SO HE WANTS ME TO TURN OVER XIAHOU MAO!?

YES, AND I TOO HAVE NOT TRULY SURRENDERED.

THIS IS ABSURD! HOW COULD I SIMPLY TURN MY BACK ON WEI AFTER BEING INDEBTED SO!?

USE HIS SCHEME?

THUS, I WAS TH NKING PERHAPS WE COULD USE KONGMING'S SCHEME AGAINST HIM?

HMM...
WHISPER WHISPER
I'LL LET COMMANDER XIAHOU MAO KNOW.
SOUNDS INTERE-STING.
WELL?

YES, SIR.

USE KONGMING'S SCHEME AGAINST HIM?

AND THEN?

FIRST, CUI LIANG RETURNS TO KONGMING.

EXACTLY HOW?

I SEE.

HE WILL THEN TELL KONGMING THAT WHILE I'VE AGREED TO HELP, YOUR BODYGUARDS MAKE IT TOO DIFFICULT FOR ME ALONE TO TIE YOU UP.

THUS, I WILL INSTEAD OPEN THE CITY GATES FOR KONGMING HIMSELF TO LEAD IN TROOPS AND CAPTURE THE CITY.

AHH, SOUNDS INTEREST-ING.

THAT WILL CREATE A DIVERSION TO CATCH YOU OFF GUARD AND INCAPACITATE YOU.

YES, SIR.

LET'S GIVE IT A TRY.

IF WE CAN JUST CAPTURE KONGMING, THEN THE REST OF HIS ARMY IS NOTHING TO FEAR.

MAKE ALL NEEDED PREP-ARATIONS IN THE MEAN-WHILE.

I WILL ENTRUST THE MATTER IN YOUR HANDS, CUI LIANG.

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YES, THERE ARE MORE MEN LOYAL TO XIAHOU MAO THAN YANG LING IN NANAN CURRENTLY.

I SEE, SO IT IS TOO RISKY FOR YANG LING ALONE TO TRY INCAPACITATING HIM.

HM...

HOWEVER, HE SAYS HE CAN OPEN THE CITY GATES, GIVING YOU A CHANCE TO LEAD THE TROOPS INSIDE.

YOU WILL NOT GO YOURSELF, CHANCELLOR?

ALRIGHT, TAKE YOUR SURRENDERED TROOPS TO ENTER NANAN AND CREATE A DIVERSION TO CAPTURE XIAHOU MAO THEN.

I WILL SHORTLY FOLLOW. BUT IN THE MEANTIME, MY GENERALS GUAN XING AND ZHANG BAO WILL DISGUISE THEMSELVES AS YOUR SOLDIERS AND ENTER THE CITY FIRST.

YES, I WILL LIGHT A FIRE AS A SIGNAL. PLEASE ENTER QUICKLY TO SUPPRESS THE GARRISON INSIDE.

GIVE THE SIGNAL WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, AND I WILL ENTER THE CITY WITH MORE TROOPS.

IF I REFUSE TO ACCEPT GUAN XING AND ZHANG BAO, HE'LL SURELY REALIZE SOMETHING'S SUSPICIOUS. I'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO KILL THEM OFF IN NANAN AND THEN LURE HIM INSIDE...

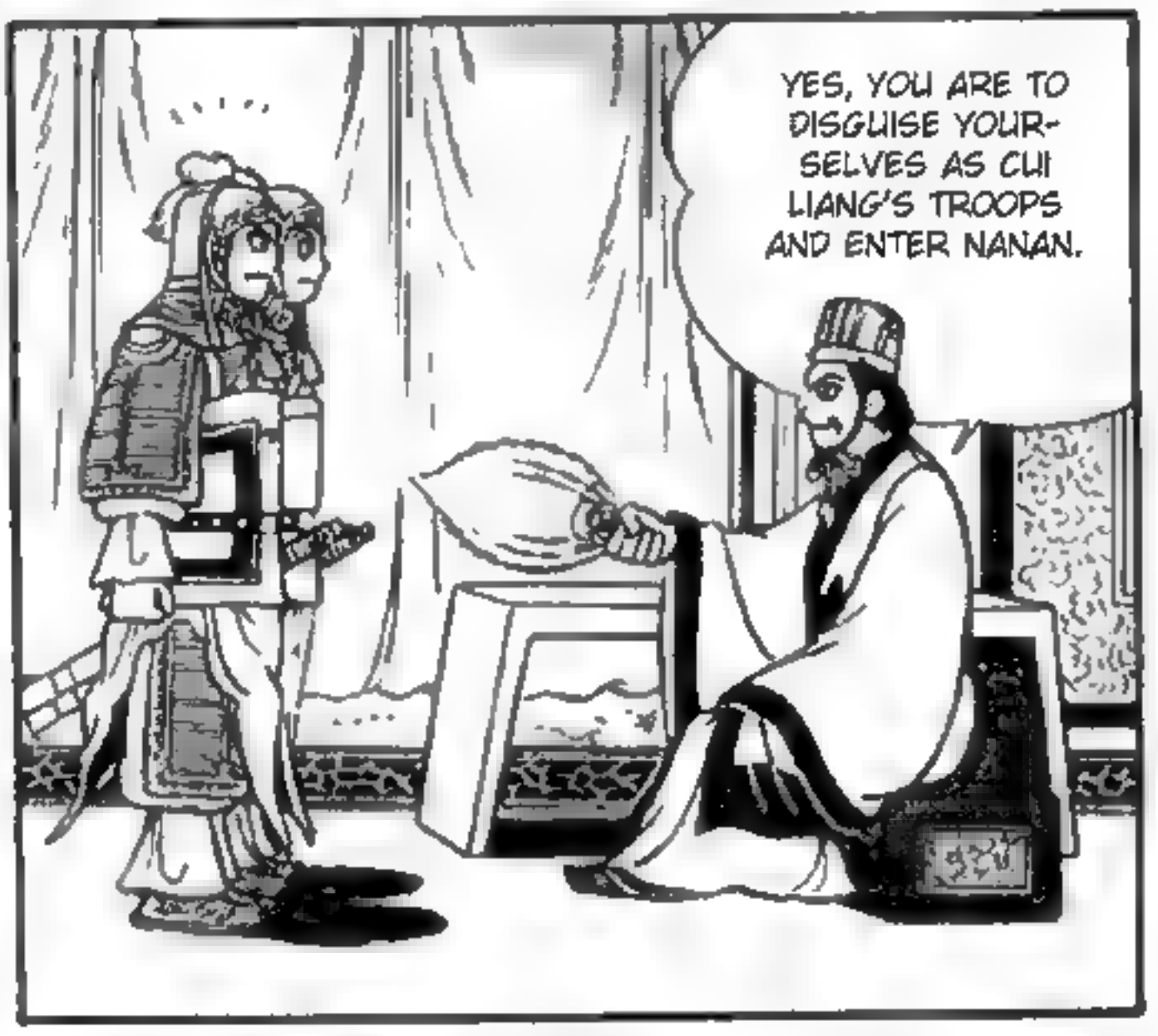
UNDER-STOOD, SIR.

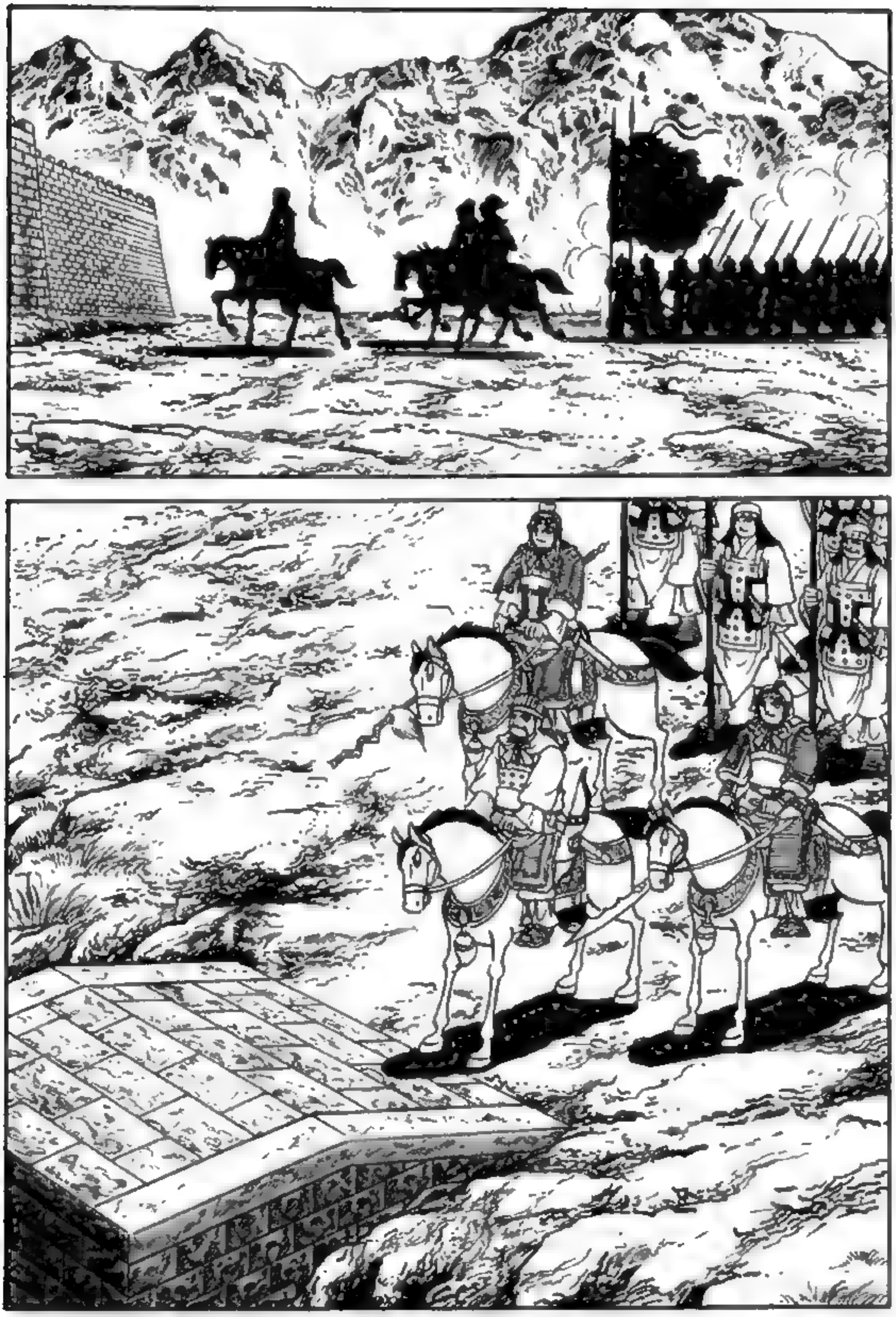
YES, SIR.
CALL GUAN XING AND ZHANG BAO.

DID THE CHANCELLOR CALL US?

.....

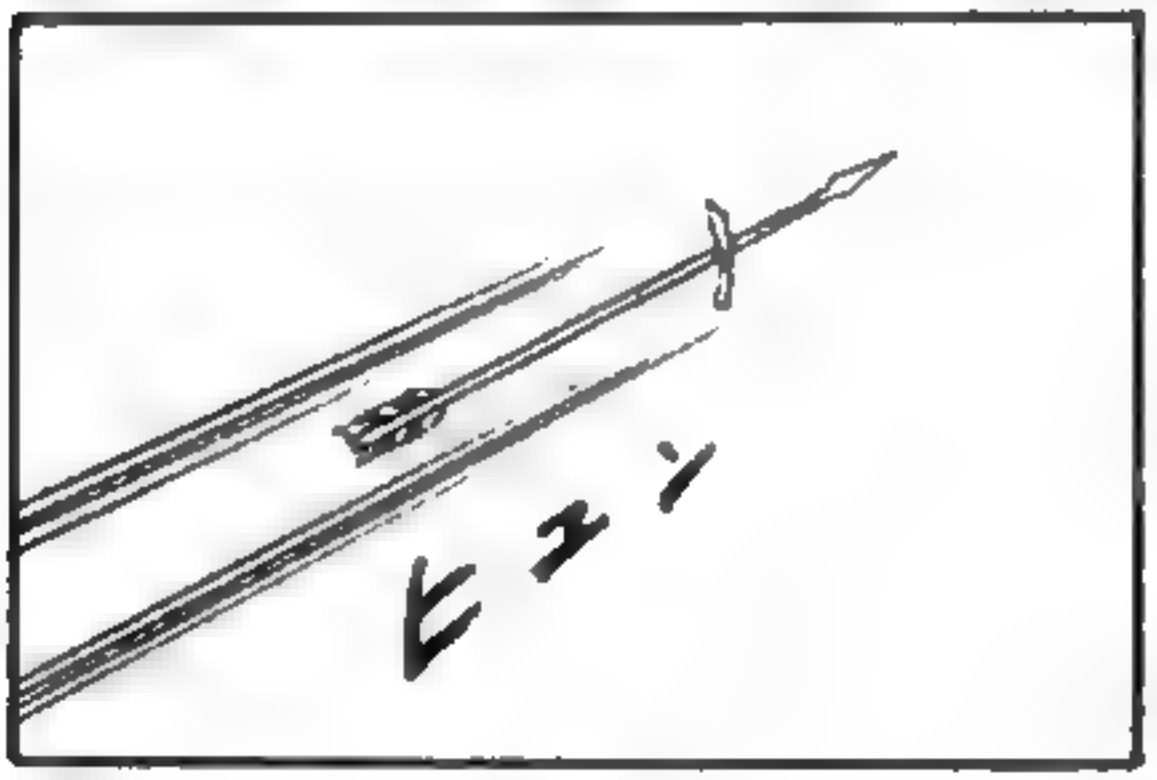
ONCE YOU ENTER... WHISPER WHISPER


.....
YES, YOU ARE TO DISGUISE YOURSELVES AS CUI LIANG'S TROOPS AND ENTER NANAN.

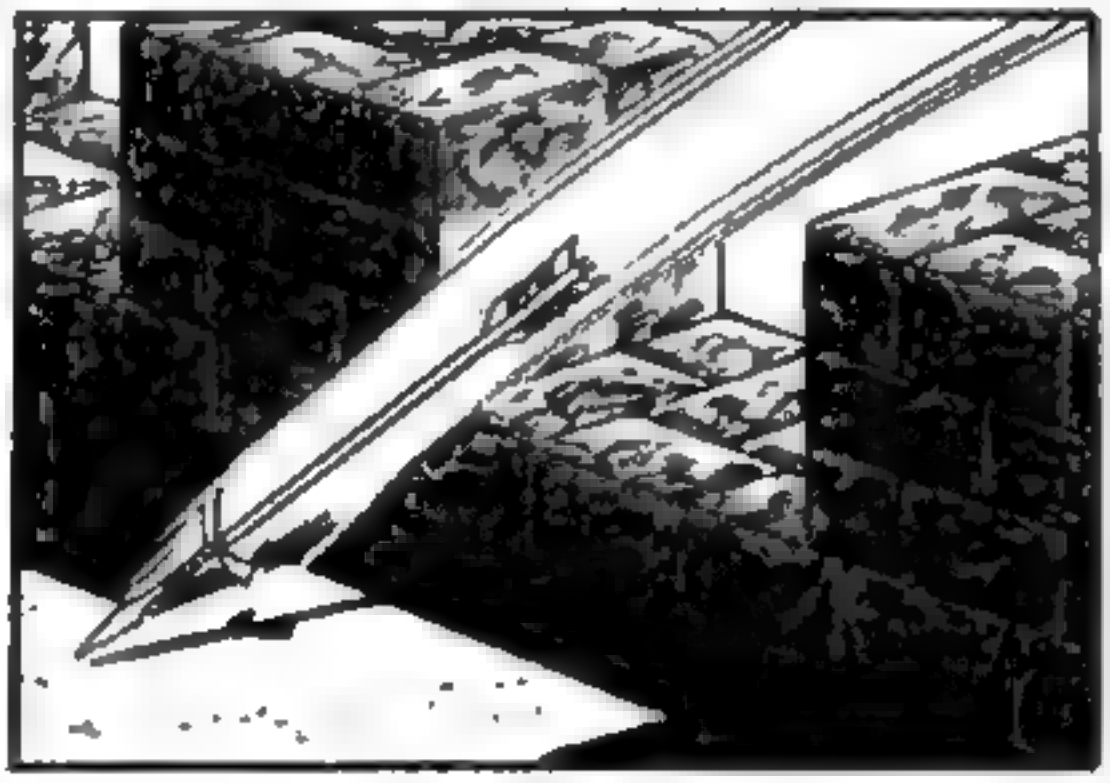


WE ARE THE WEI GARRISON OF ANDING! WE REQUEST PERMISSION TO ENTER!

WHO GOES THERE!?



THIS LETTER CONTAINS THE DETAILS!



"THE CAUTIOUS KONGMING HAS INSTEAD SENT HIS TWO GENERALS, GUAN XING AND ZHANG BAO, DISGUISED AS MY SUBORDINATES. PREPARE TO KILL THEM IMMEDIATELY UPON ENTERING THE CITY. THE PLAN CAN THEN PROGRESS JUST AS WE PLANNED AFTER THIS."

STAND BY FOR A MOMENT!

THIS IS CUI LIANG'S LETTER.

KONGMING HAS APPARENTLY SENT TWO OF HIS GENERALS FIRST, DISGUISED AS ANDING'S GARRISON SOLDIERS.

YES, SIR.

FIND AND KILL THIS GUAN XING AND ZHANG BAO ONCE THEY ENTER THE CITY.

VERY WELL.

YES, SIR.

AFTER THAT, START A FIRE TO SERVE AS THE SIGNAL TO LURE KONGMING IN.

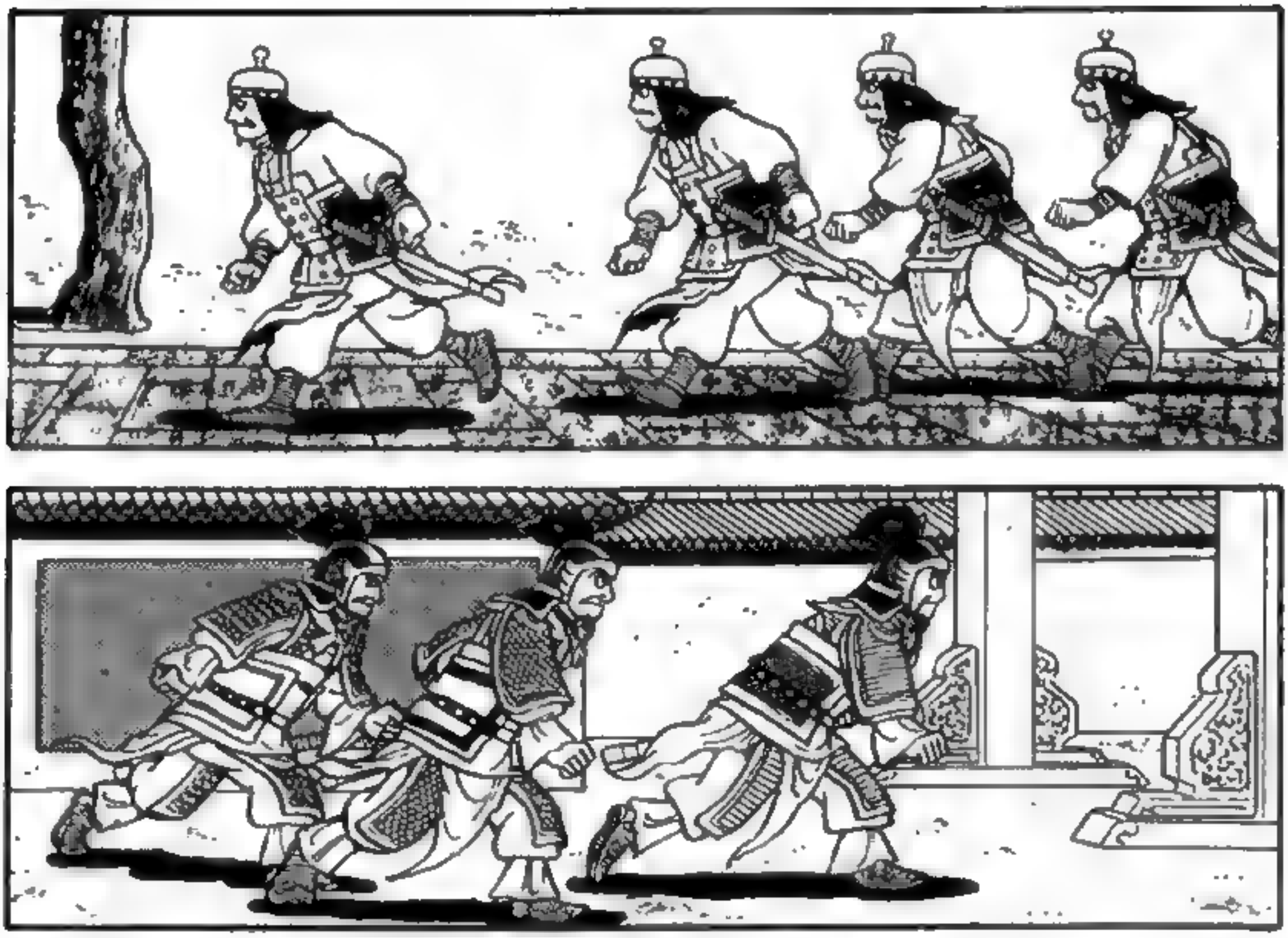
YES, SIR.

AS FOR YOU MEN, STAND BY THE GATES AND OPEN WHEN THE FIRE HAS BEEN LIT. CLOSE IT AGAIN IMMEDIATELY ONCE KONGMING HAS ENTERED.

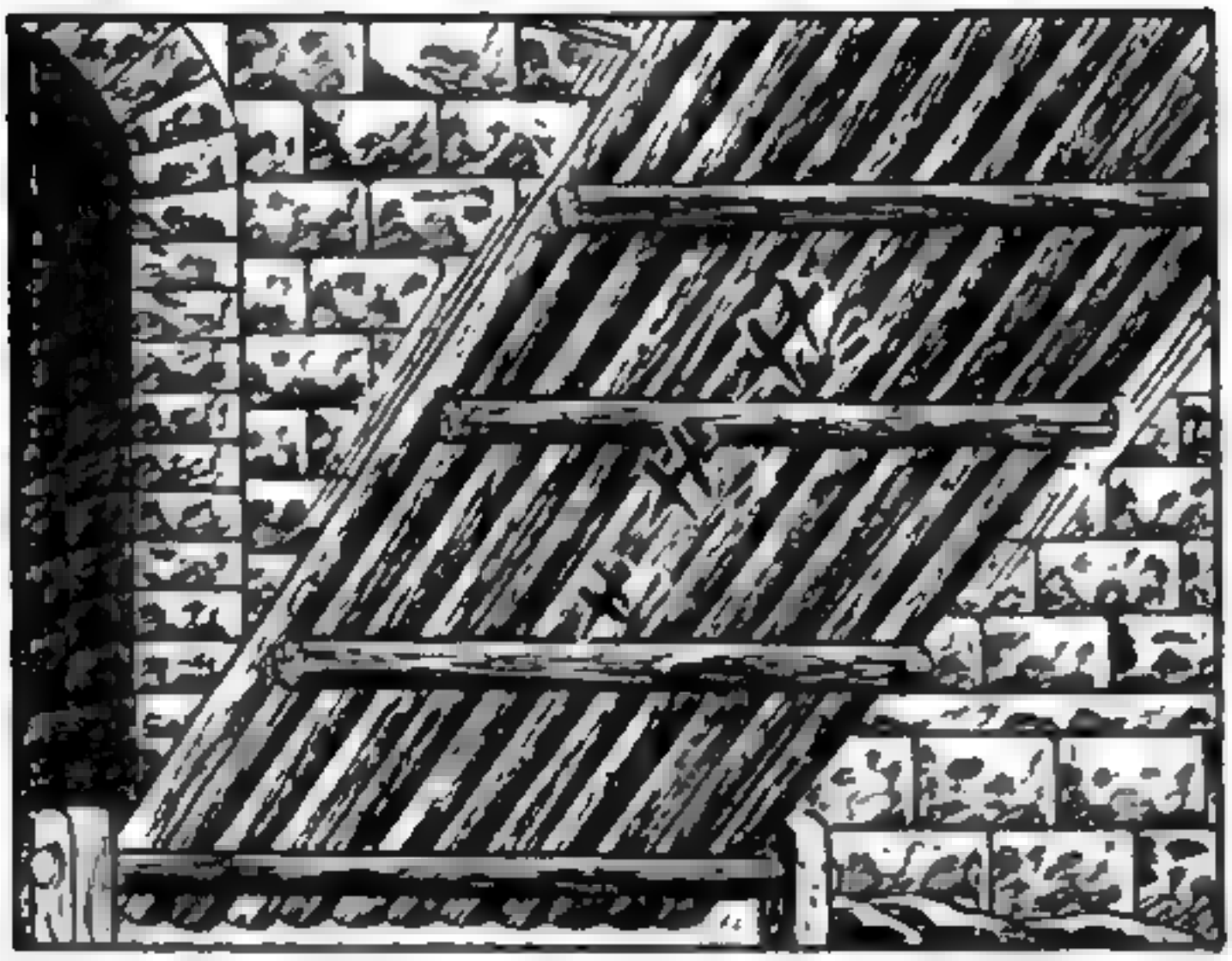
YES, SIR.

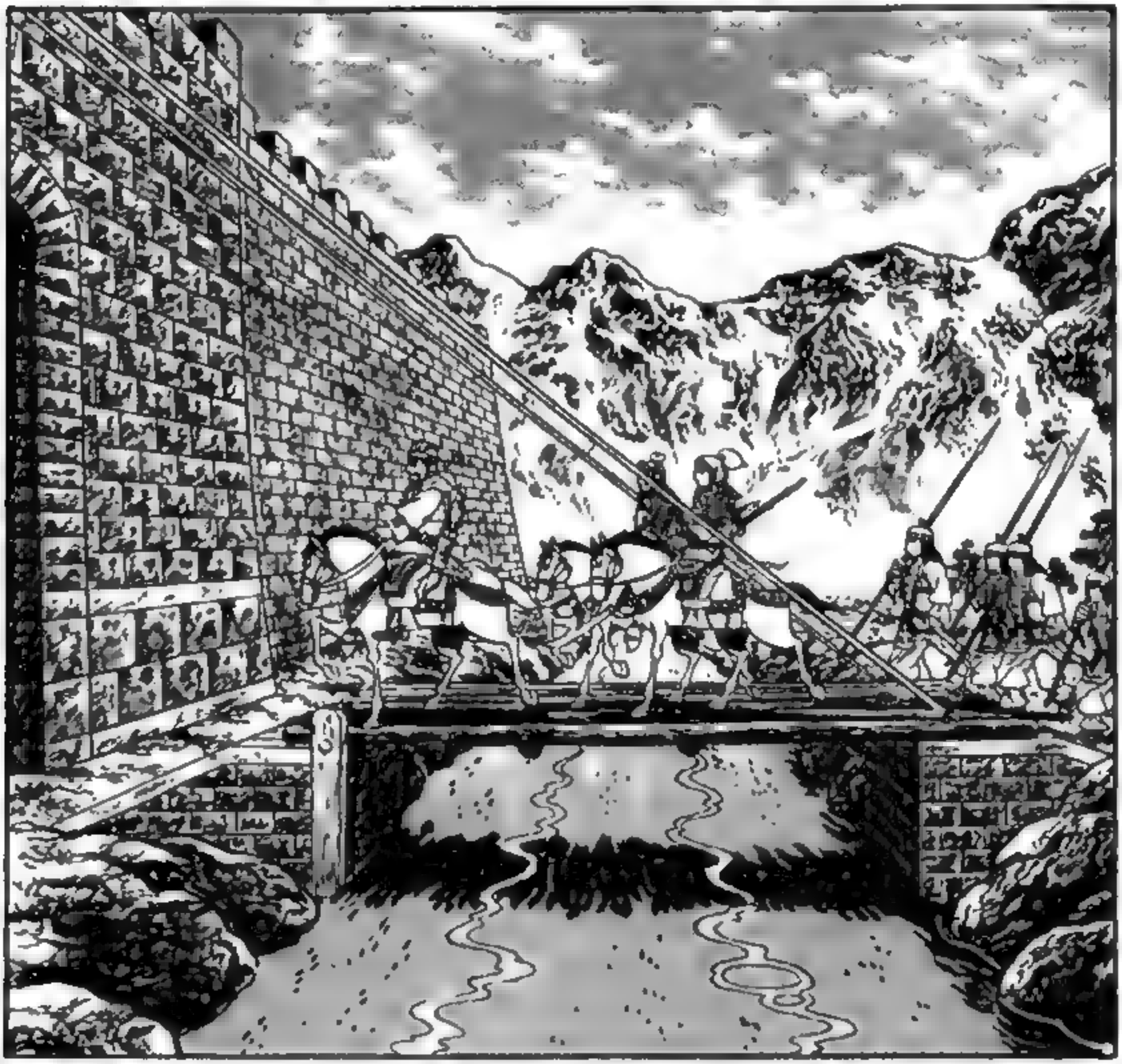
THERE MUST BE NO MISTAKES!

THE MOMENT YOU STEP FOOT IN NANAN, YOU WILL SEAL YOUR OWN FATE, KONGMING.



AFTER READING YOUR LETTER, WE HAVE DECIDED TO LET YOU ENTER THE CITY!





CUI LIANG!

HM?

PLEASE HURRY ON INSIDE.

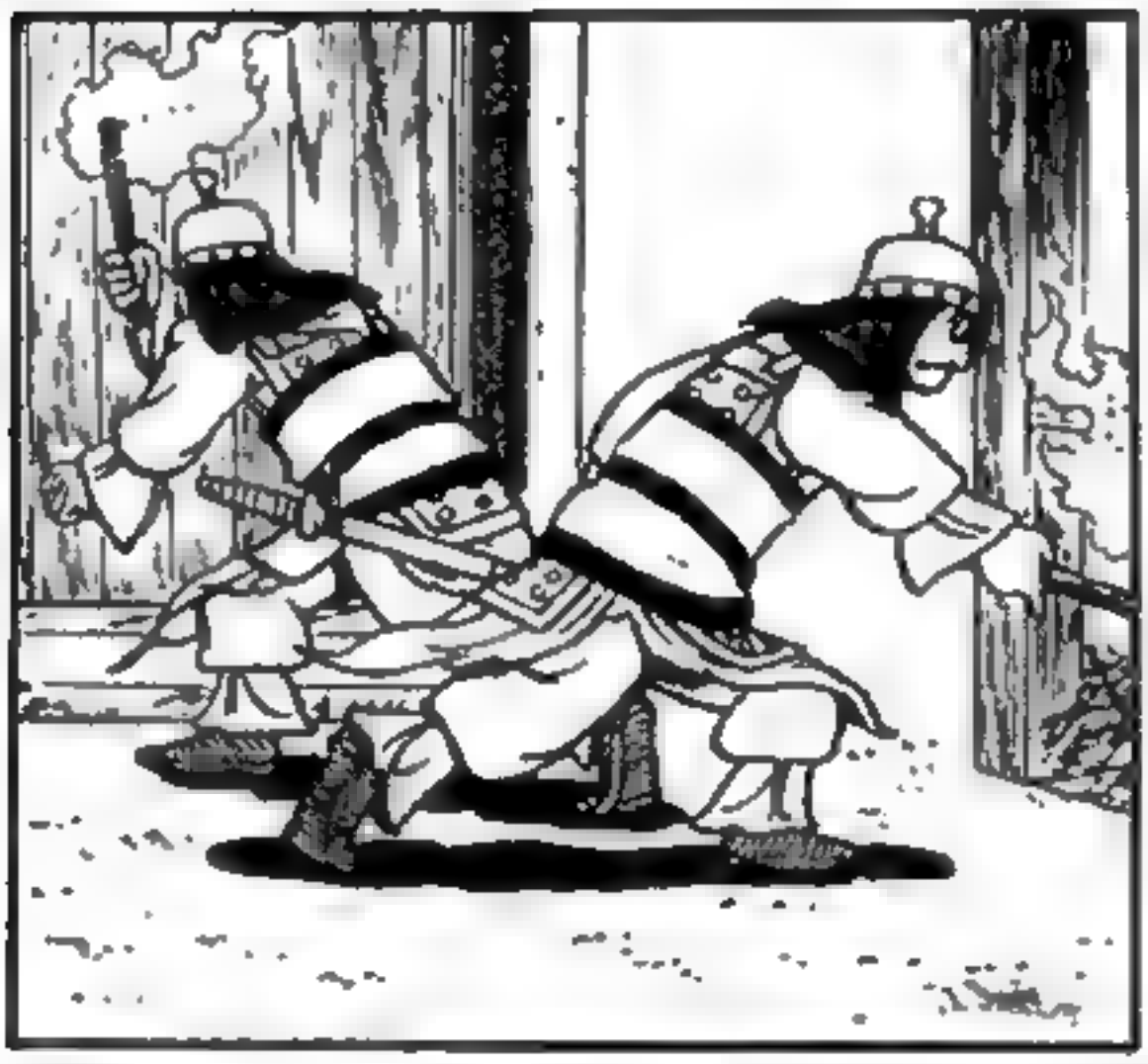
YOUR ROLE ENDS HERE!

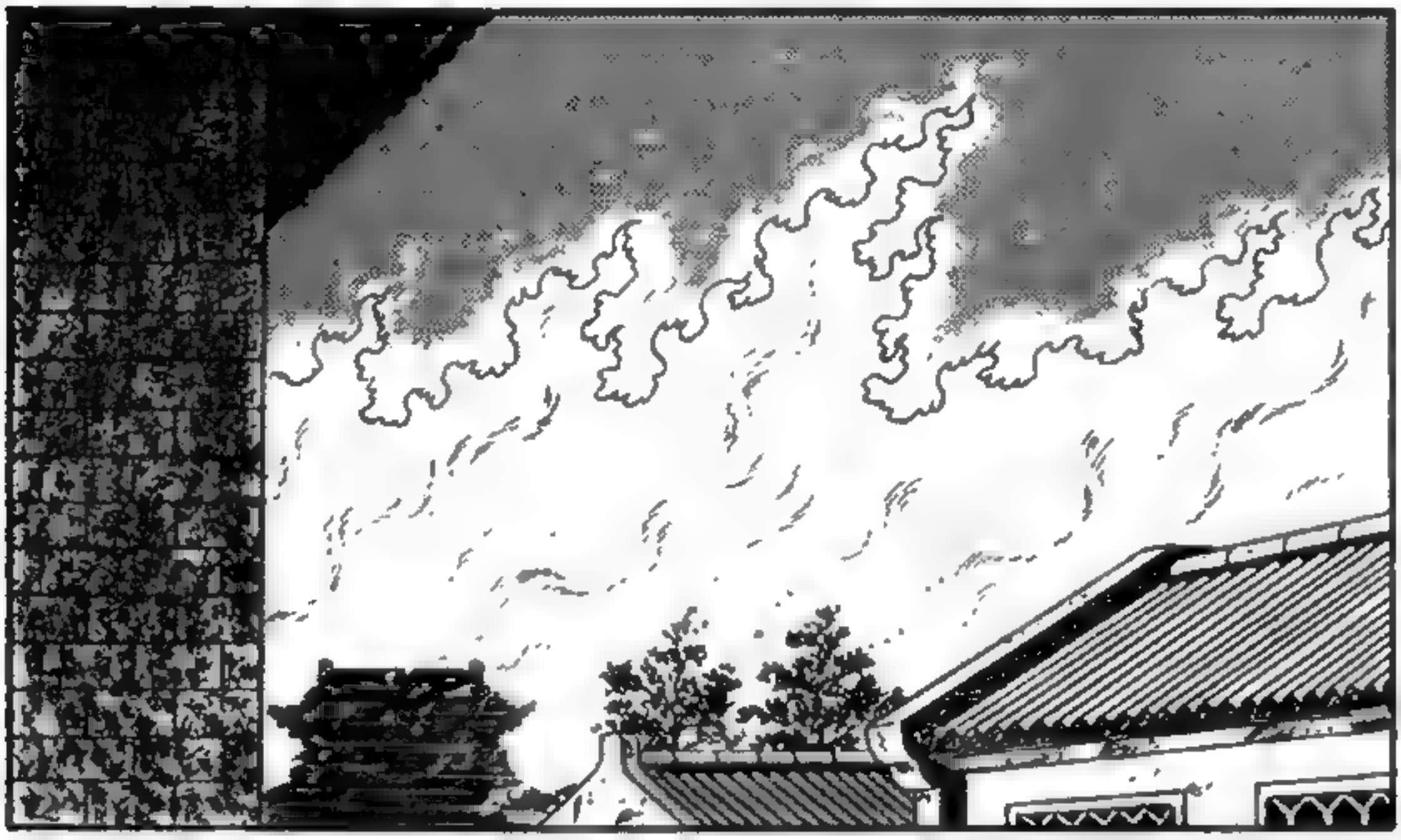
DID YOU REALLY THINK OUR CHANCELLOR COULD NOT SEE THROUGH SUCH A SIMPLE PLOY?

AGHH!

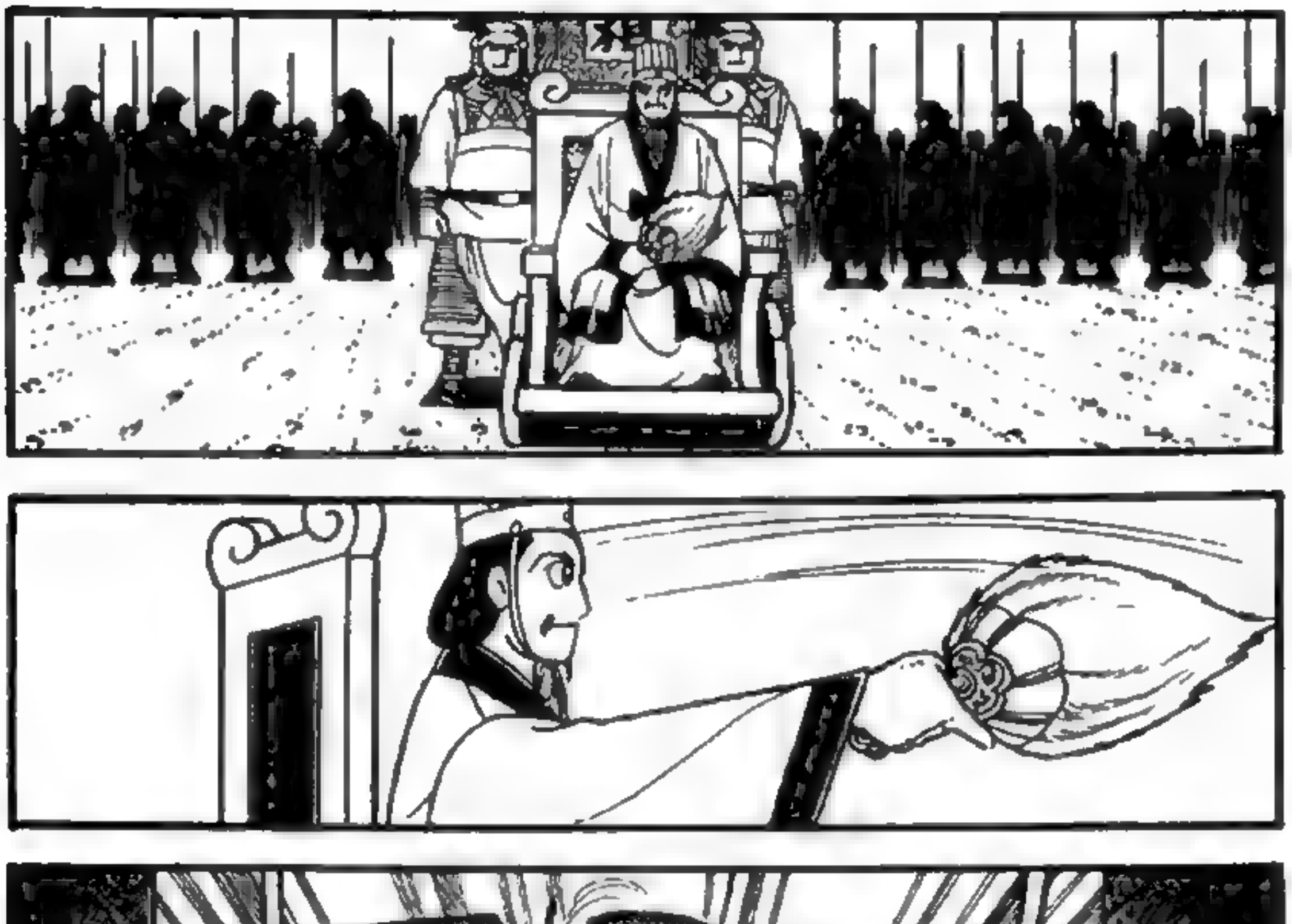
LIGHT THE CITY ON FIRE! IF OUR MISSION SUCCEEDS, YOU WILL ALL BE GREATLY REWARDED AS THE CHANCELLOR PROMISED!

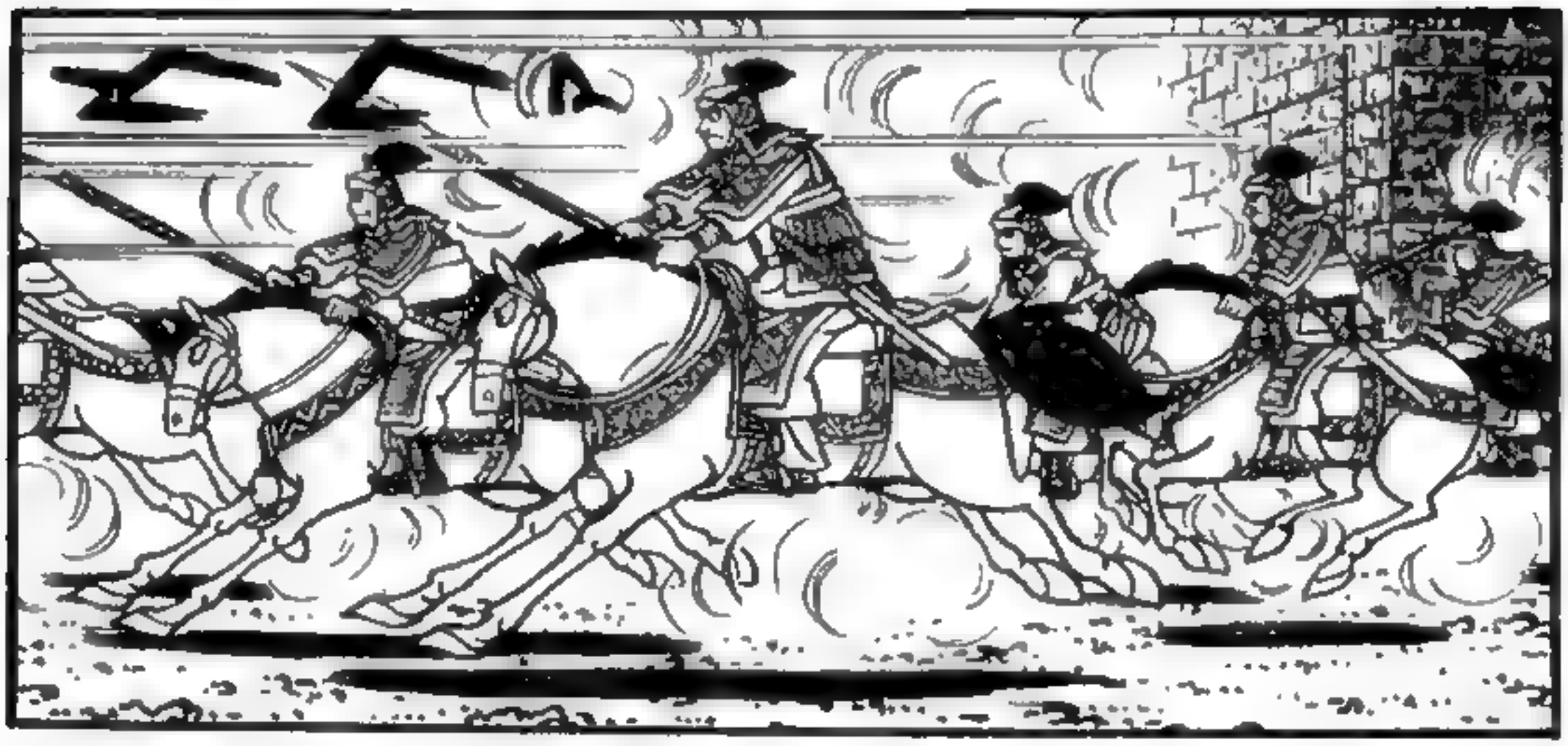
WHEN CUI LIANG PREVIOUSLY WENT TO NANAN KONGMING CONVINCED THE GARRISON OF ANDING TO FIGHT FOR SHU IN RETURN FOR GREAT RICHES





YEAH, THIS IS KONGMING WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. HE AIN'T GONNA BE FOOLED WITH JUST A SIMPLE FIRE.
IT'S GOTTA SEEM REALISTIC.
I-IS THIS REALLY ALL JUST AN ACT?





W-WHAT'S GOING ON?

SIR!

WHA!

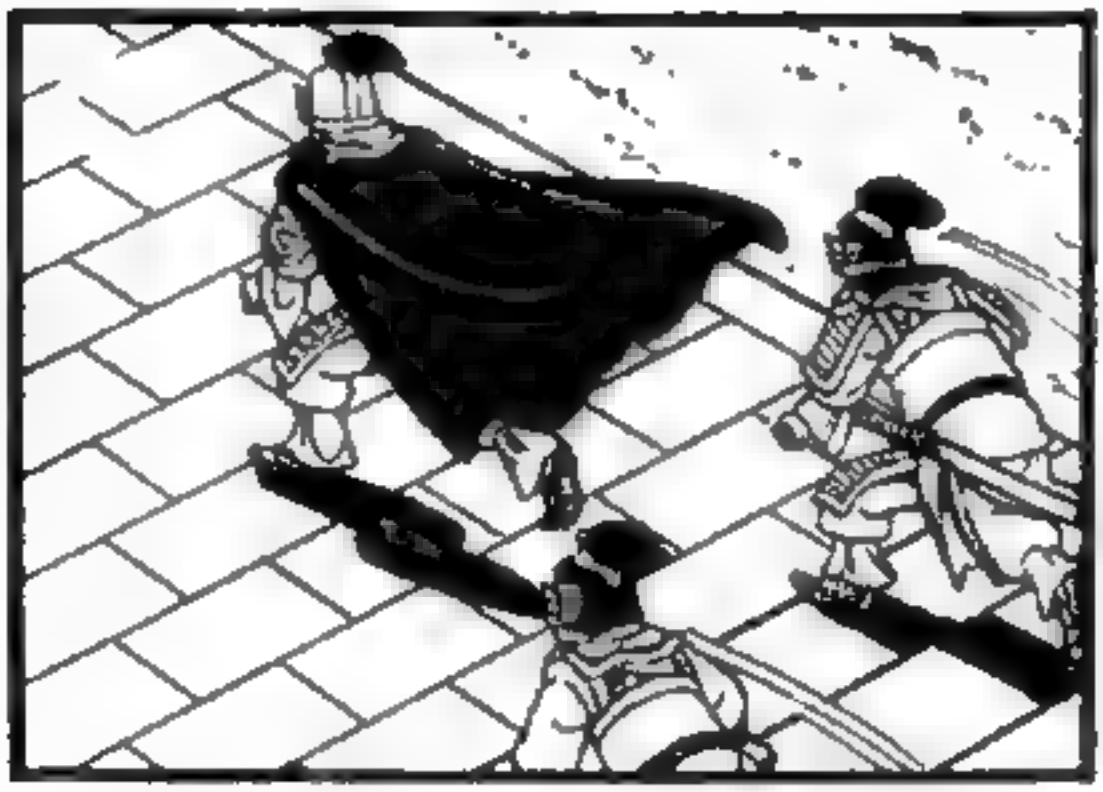
NO, SIR! YANG LING AND CUI LIANG WERE BOTH SLAIN AND THE SHU ARMY HAS NOW FLOODED INSIDE THE CITY!

HAS KONGMING BEEN SLAIN!?

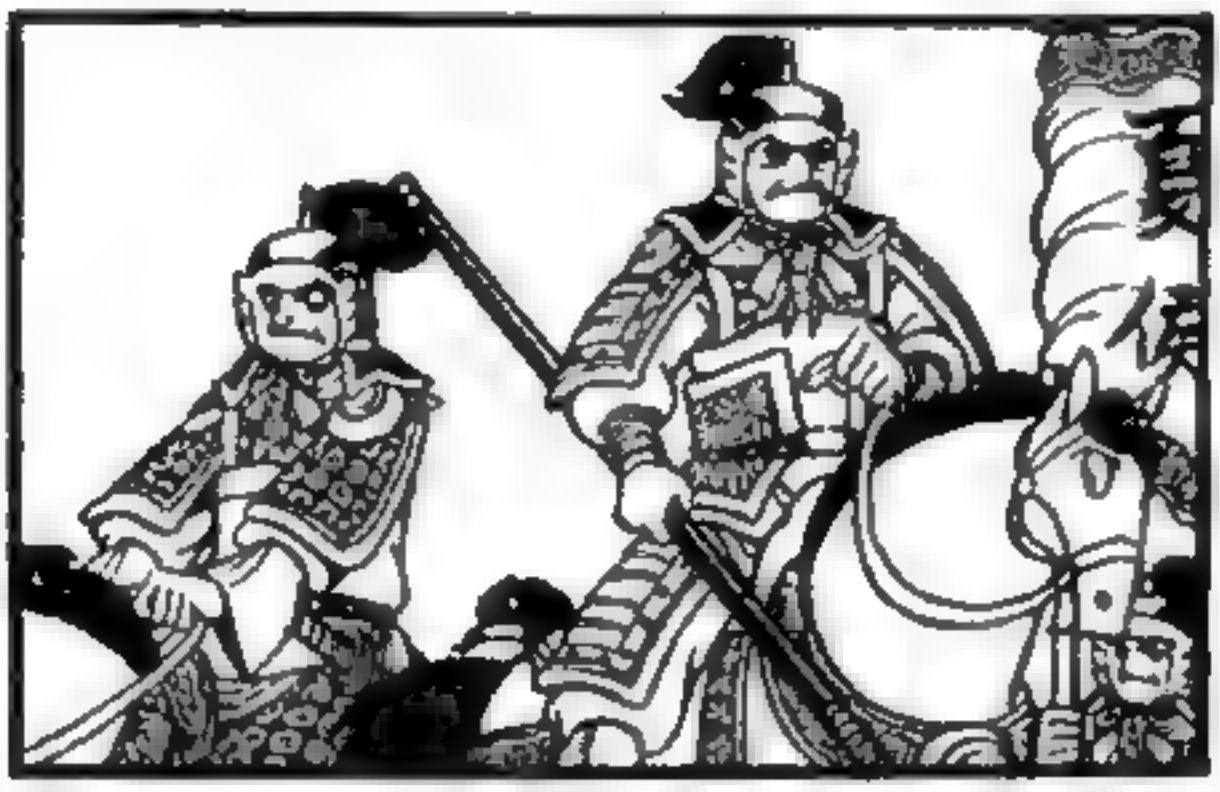
THE ENEMIES WILL BE HERE ANY MOMENT NOW!

WE CAN ONLY HOPE TO STILL ESCAPE THROUGH THE SOUTHERN GATE!

W-WHAT DO WE DO!?



YES, SIR.
ALRIGHT, LET'S FLEE TO TIANSHUI THEN!



AH!

NGHH!

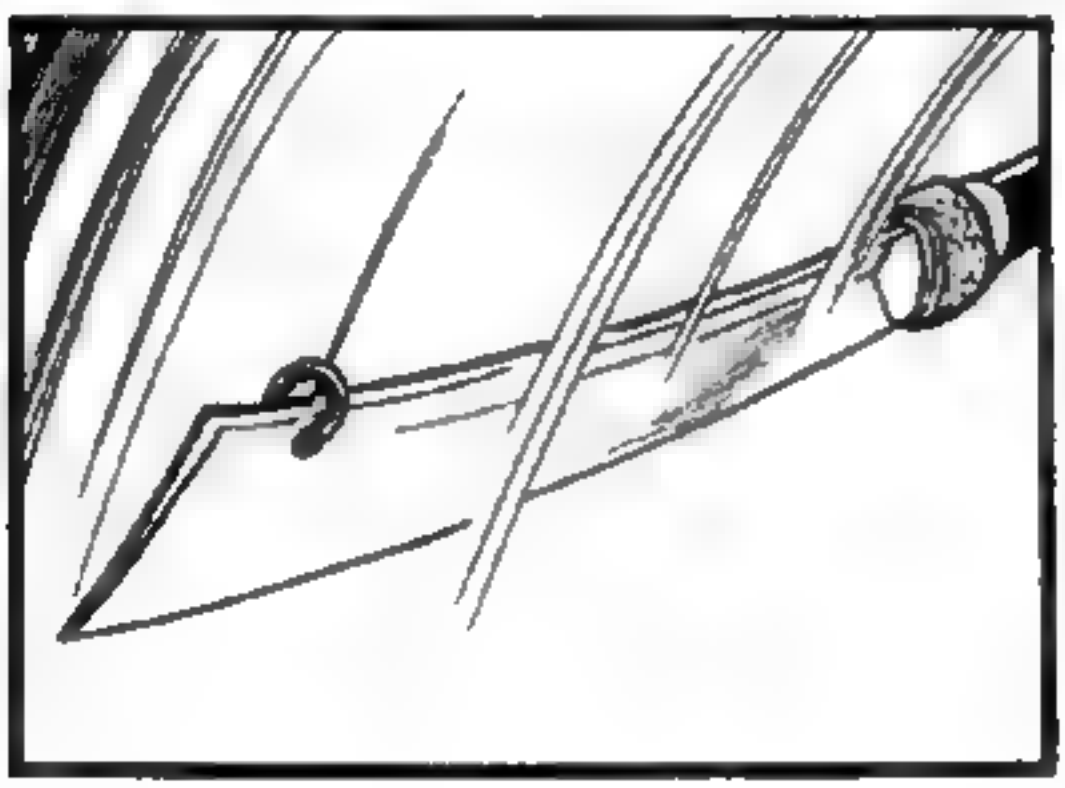
NONE OF YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ESCAPE. I SUGGEST YOU PEACEFULLY LAY DOWN ARMS.

IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU GOT HERE. WHILE I, WANG PING, GUARD THIS PATH,

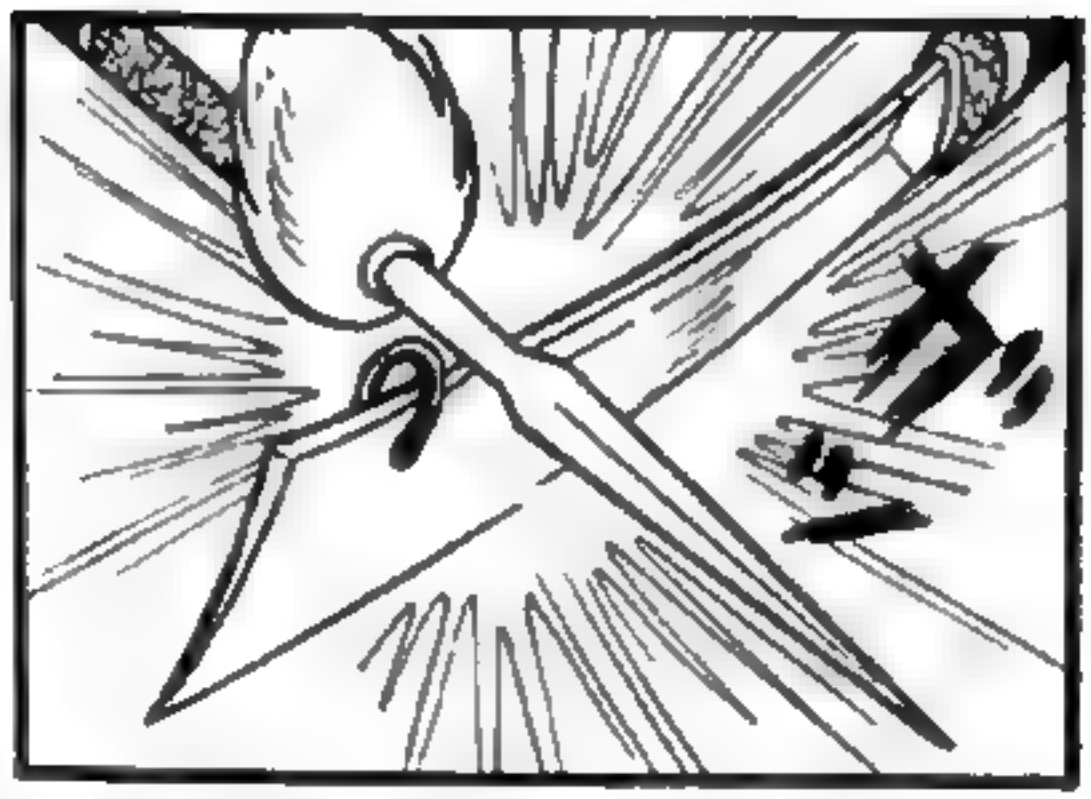
CHARGE RIGHT THROUGH!

STUBBORN AS A BOAR, I SEE...

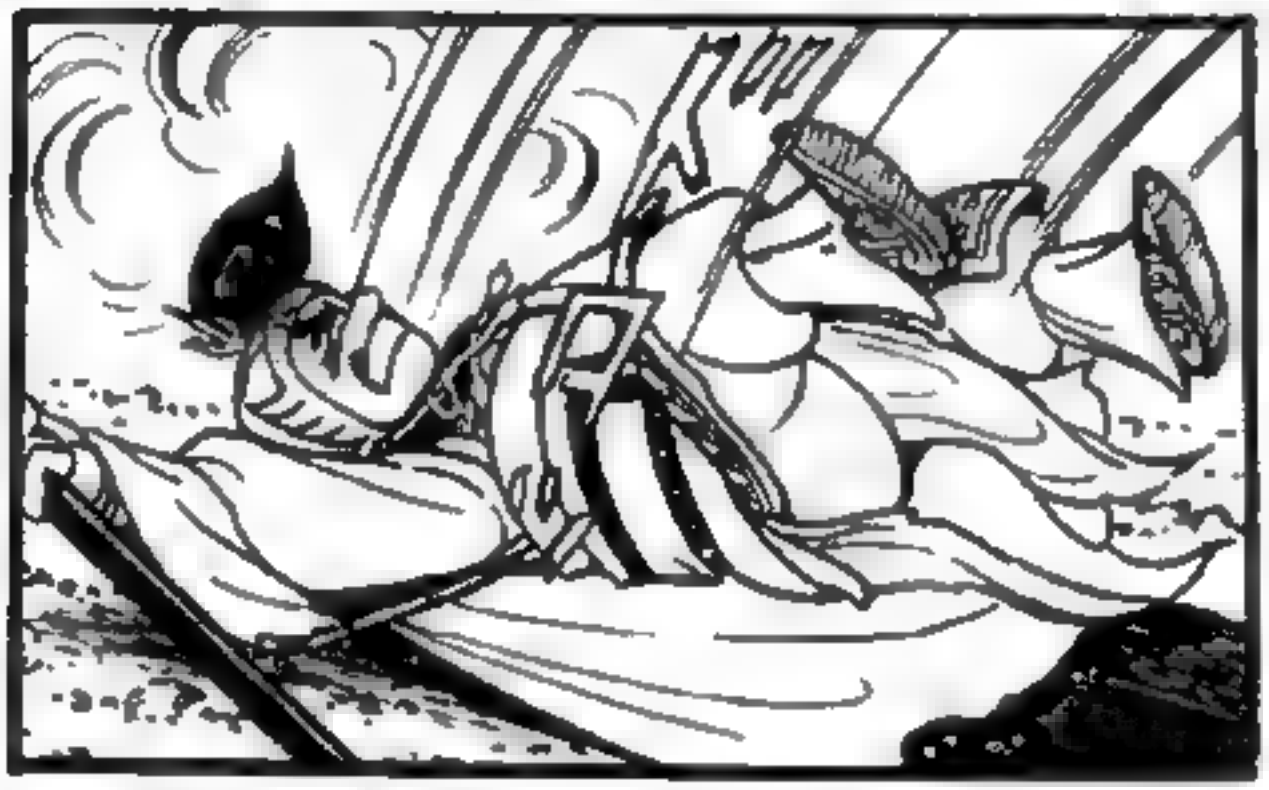
NGHHH!
HAVE YOU HAD ENOUGH PLAYING COMMANDER, XIAHOU MAO?

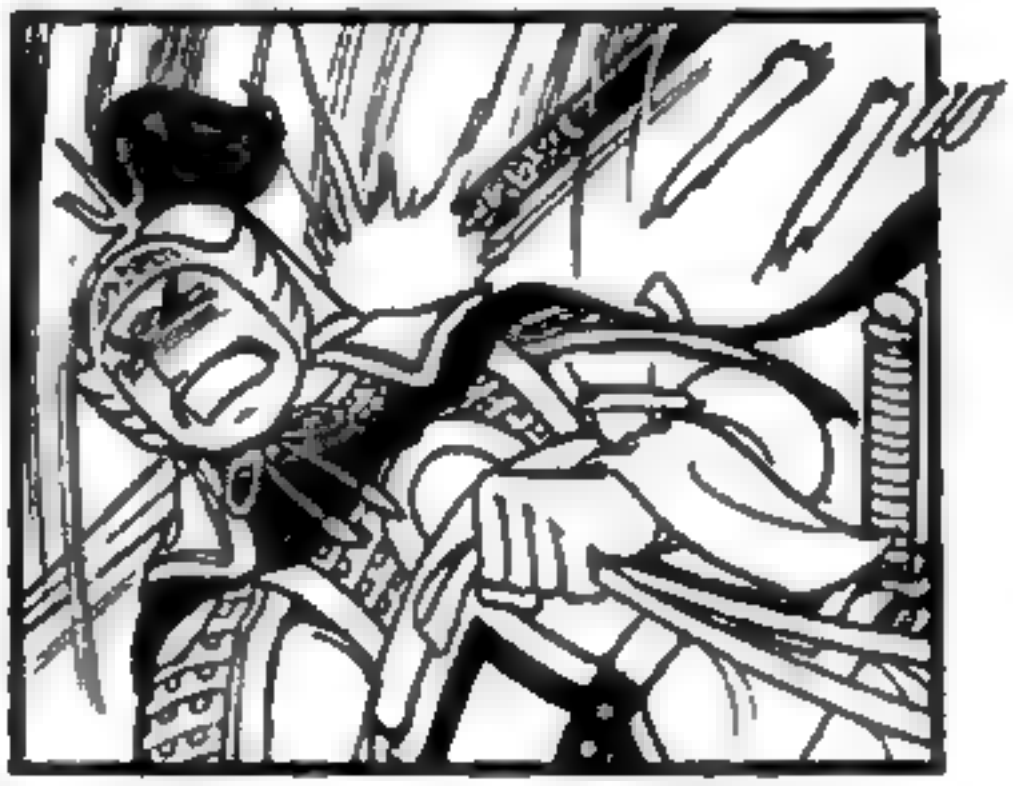


YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT REMARK WITH YOUR LIFE!



TAKE THIS!

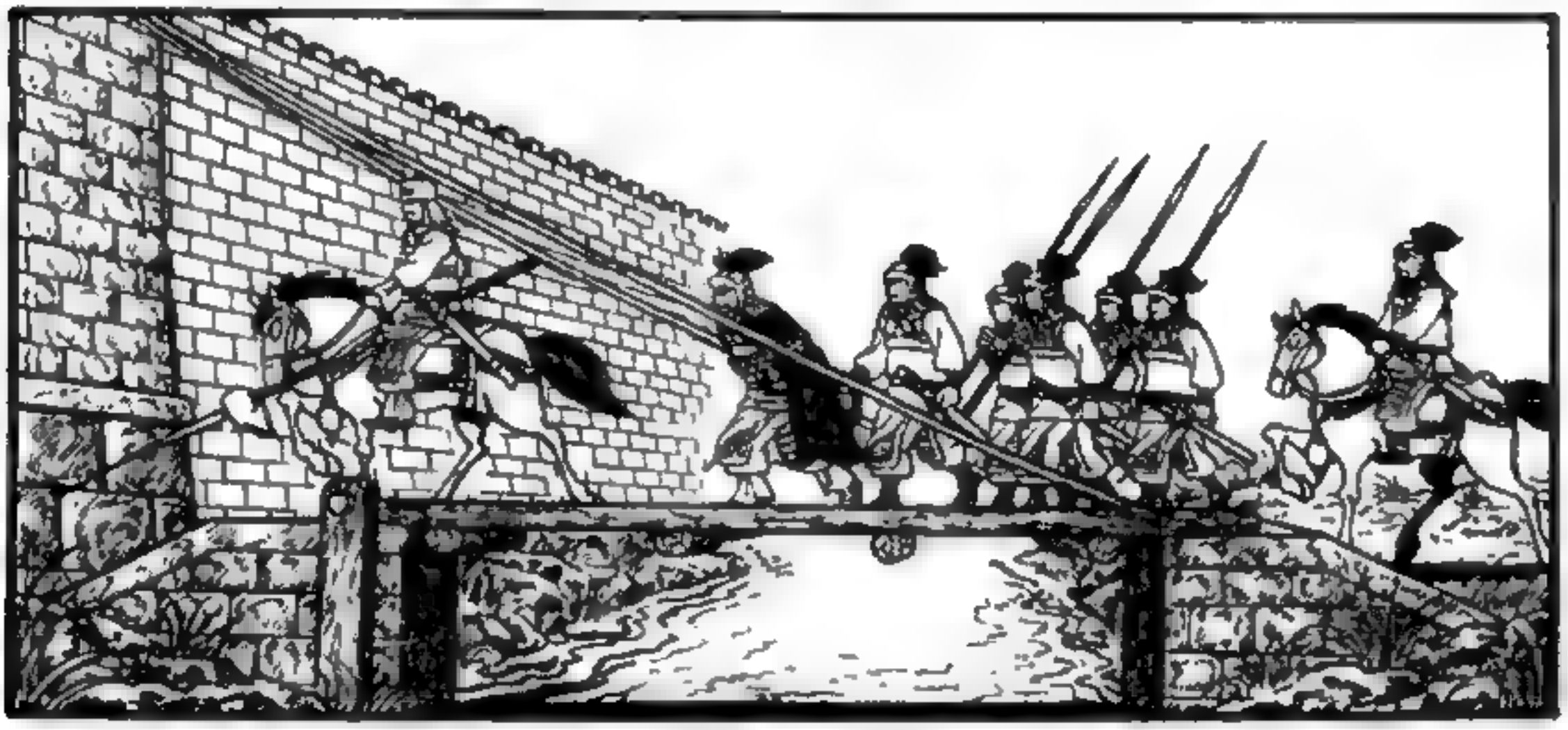




TIE HIM UP!

NOW TO MARCH VICTORIOUSLY INSIDE NANAN.

CURSES!



CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE TO ALL OF YOU! LET US FEAST AND DRINK PLENTY TONIGHT!

YES?

MAY I ASK ONE QUESTION, CHANCELLOR?

WELL, IT WAS PARTLY INSTINCT, AND PARTLY ME READING BETWEEN THE LINES...

HOW DID YOU KNOW CUI LIANG WAS ONLY PRETENDING TO SURRENDER?

BUT INSTEAD, HE ACTUALLY BOTHERED COMING ALL THE WAY BACK TO ANDING, WHICH MADE ME SUSPECT HE HAD FORMED A COUNTER-PLOT WITH YANG LING.

CHANCES WERE, HE WOULD SIMPLY SEEK REFUGE WITH HIS FRIEND IN NANAN. THIS WOULD BE OF NO GREAT LOSS TO ME, WHICH IS WHY I DID NOT MIND SENDING HIM ALONE.

CUI LIANG ONLY SURRENDERED INITIALLY BECAUSE HE WAS FORCED TO, NOT BECAUSE HE WANTED TO. NOW WHEN I ASKED HIM TO GO CONVINCE YANG LING IN NANAN,

TRUTH BE TOLD, THE REST OF US OFFICERS WERE ALL SUSPICIOUS OF CUI LIANG SO WE WONDERED HOW THIS WOULD ALL TURN OUT.

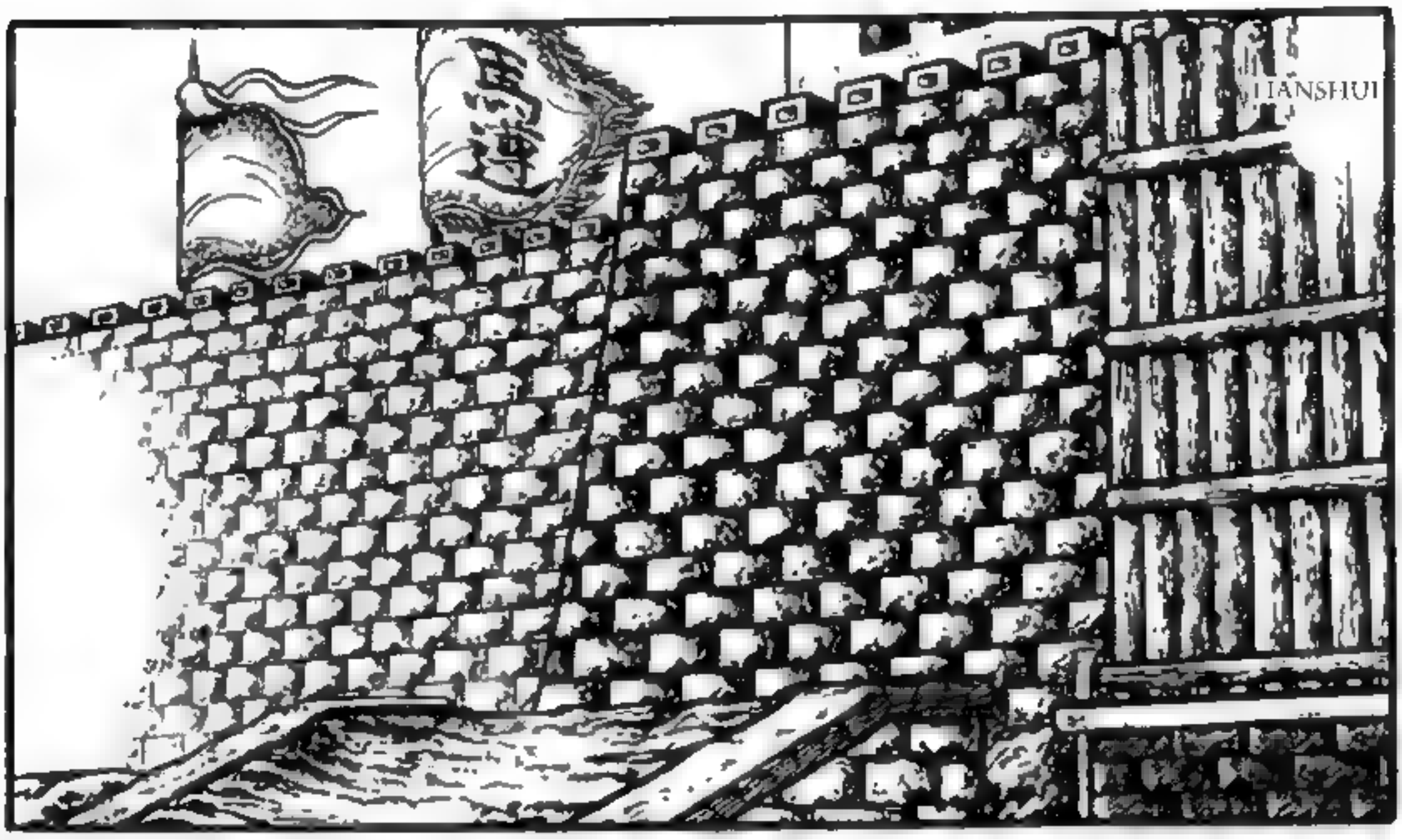
AND WHEN I TOLD HIM GUAN XING AND ZHANG BAO WILL BE ACCOMPANYING HIM INSTEAD OF ME, HIS SLIGHT HESITATION MADE HIS TRUE INTENTIONS CLEAR. THUS, I PRETENDED TO BELIEVE HIS LIES AND USED HIS COUNTER-PLOT AGAINST HIM.

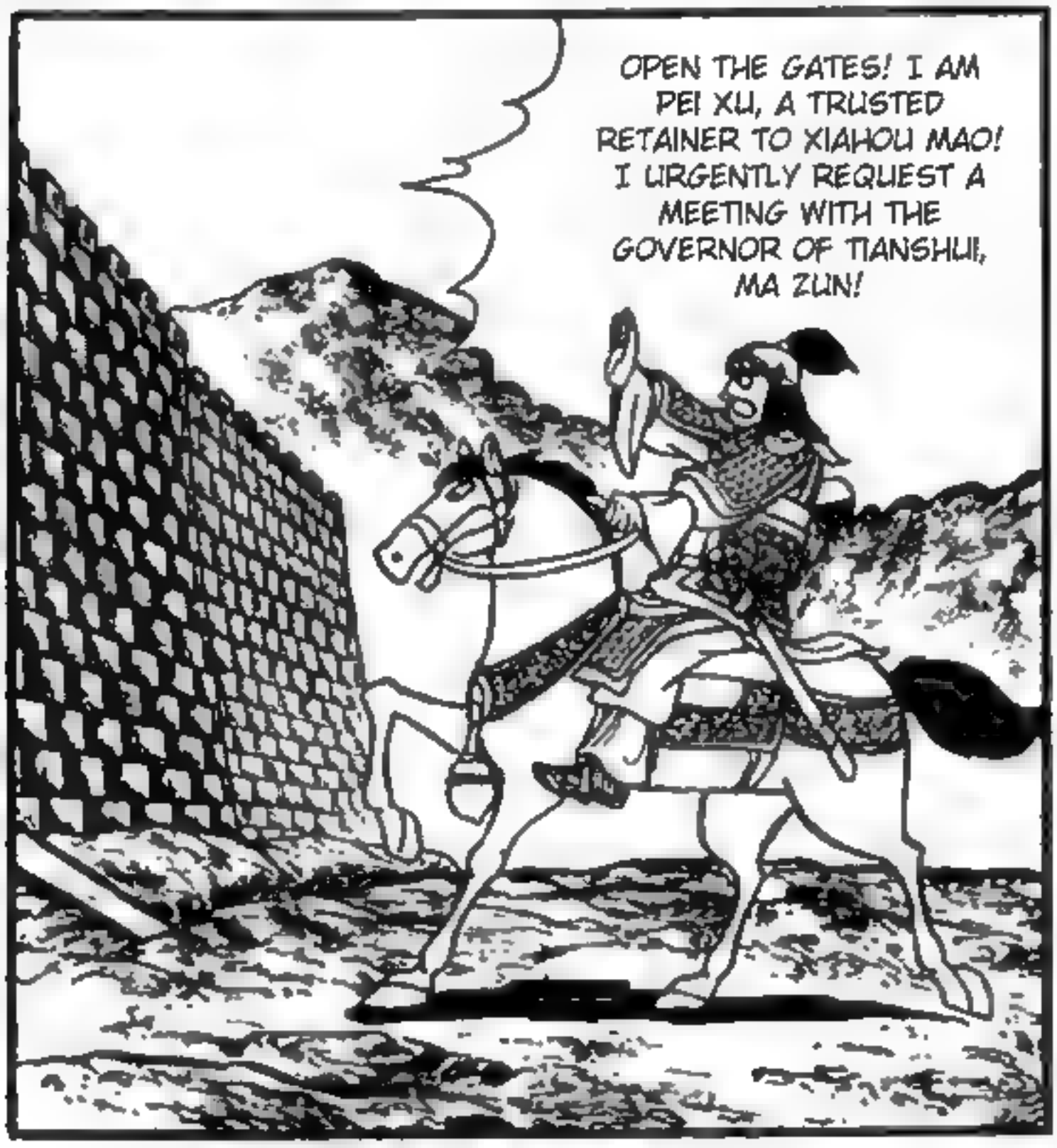
IF CUI LIANG FAILED TO CONVINCE NONE OF US SITTING HERE, THEN IT JUST GOES TO SHOW YOU HOW TERRIBLE HIS ACTING SKILLS WERE.

HA HA HA

THERE IS NOTHING EASIER TO FOOL THAN A PERSON CONCENTRATING ON WEAVING THEIR OWN LIE AND EAGER TO SEE IT SUCCEED.

YOUNG WARRIOR JIANG WEI




OPEN THE GATES! I AM PEI XU, A TRUSTED RETAINER TO XIAHOU MAO! I URGENTLY REQUEST A MEETING WITH THE GOVERNOR OF TIANSHUI, MA ZUN!

OPEN THE GATES QUICKLY! YOU DON'T WANT TO RISK OFFENDING HIM.

XIAHOU MAO? THAT IMPERIAL SON-IN-LAW?

I WILL LEAD YOU TO HIM, SIR.

WHERE IS GOVERNOR MA ZUN?

I AM PEI XU, A RETAINER TO XIAHOU MAO.

I AM MA ZUN, THE CURRENT GOVERNOR OF TIANSHUI.

AS YOU MAY BE AWARE, NANAN IS CURRENTLY UNDER SIEGE FROM SHU FORCES. COMMANDER XIAHOU MAO REQUESTS YOU TO SEND REINFORCEMENTS SO THAT WE MAY SURPRISE THE BESIEGERS FROM THE FRONT AND REAR.

ARE YOU SUGGESTING YOU WILL STAND BY AND WATCH THE IMPERIAL SON-IN-LAW AND THE NANAN GARRISON STARVE TO DEATH!?

I'M AFRAID TIANSHUI DOES NOT HAVE MANY TROOPS. PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BEST TO SIMPLY STAY ON THE DEFENSIVE?

THIS IS HIS LETTER AS PROOF.

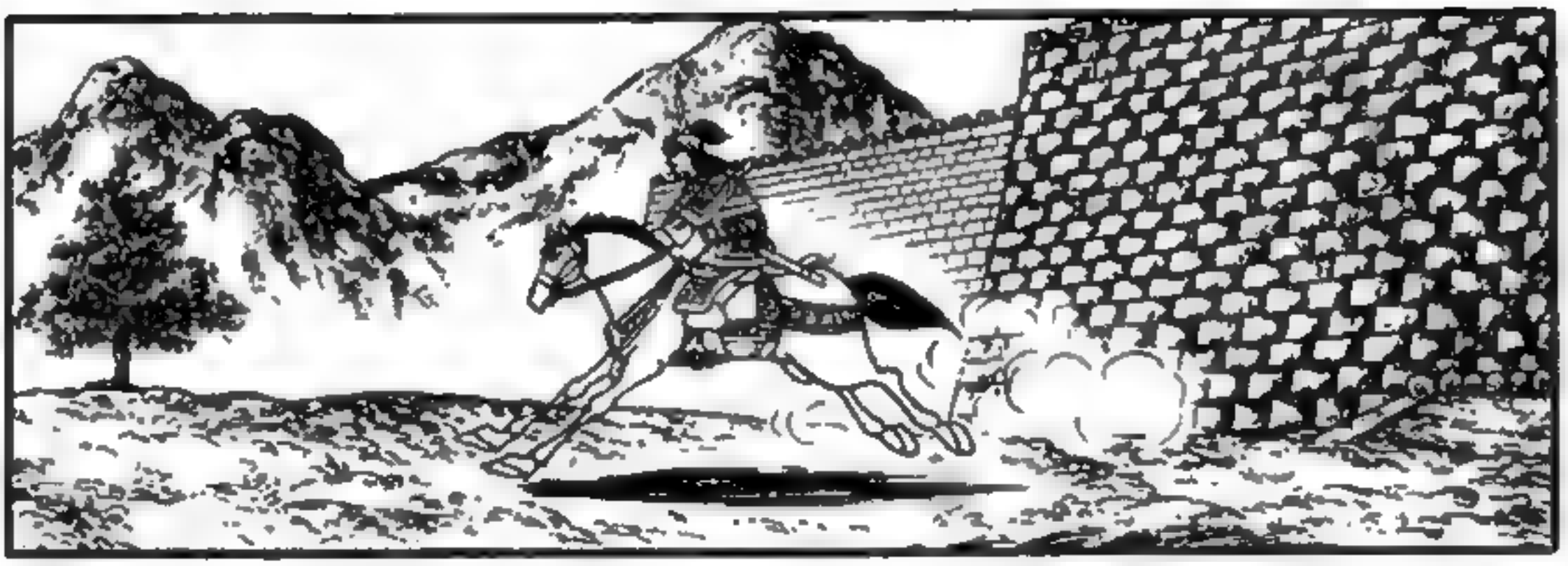
I SEE...

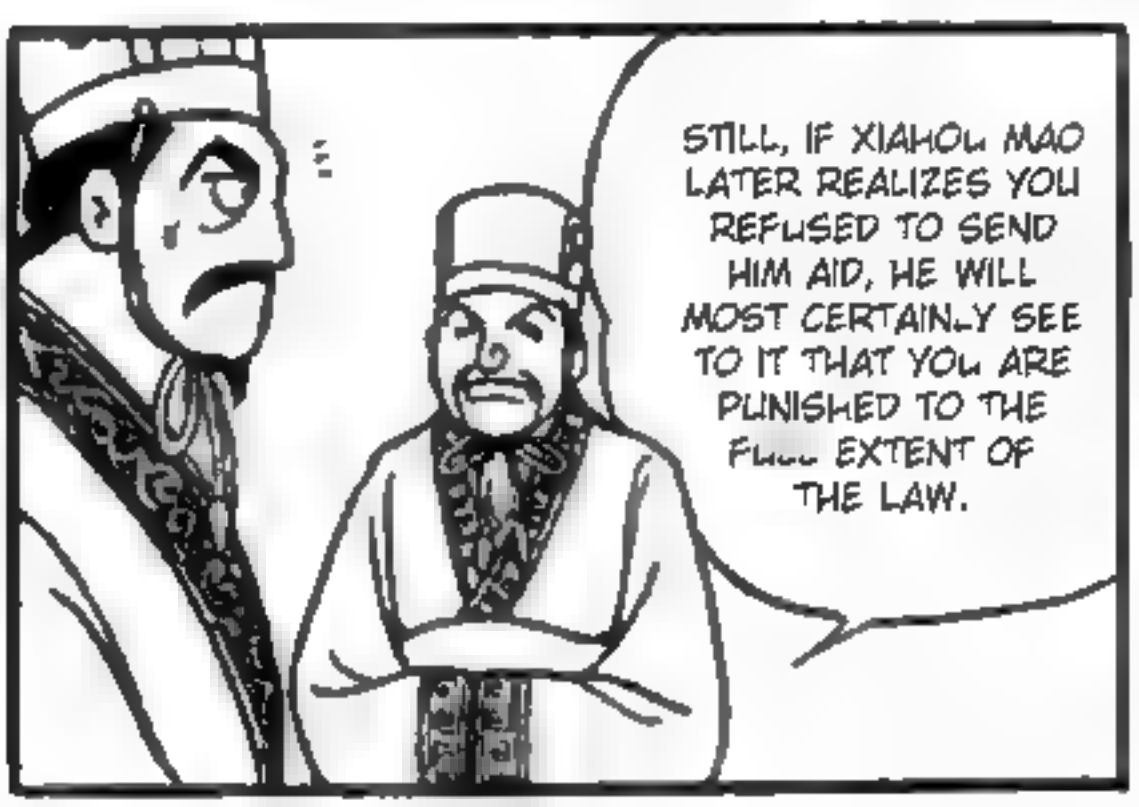
GOVERNOR CUI LIANG HAS ALREADY AGREED TO THIS PLAN. IF TIANSHUI'S TROOPS CAN COMBINE WITH ANDING'S TROOPS, OUR CHANCES OF VICTORY WILL BE MUCH HIGHER.

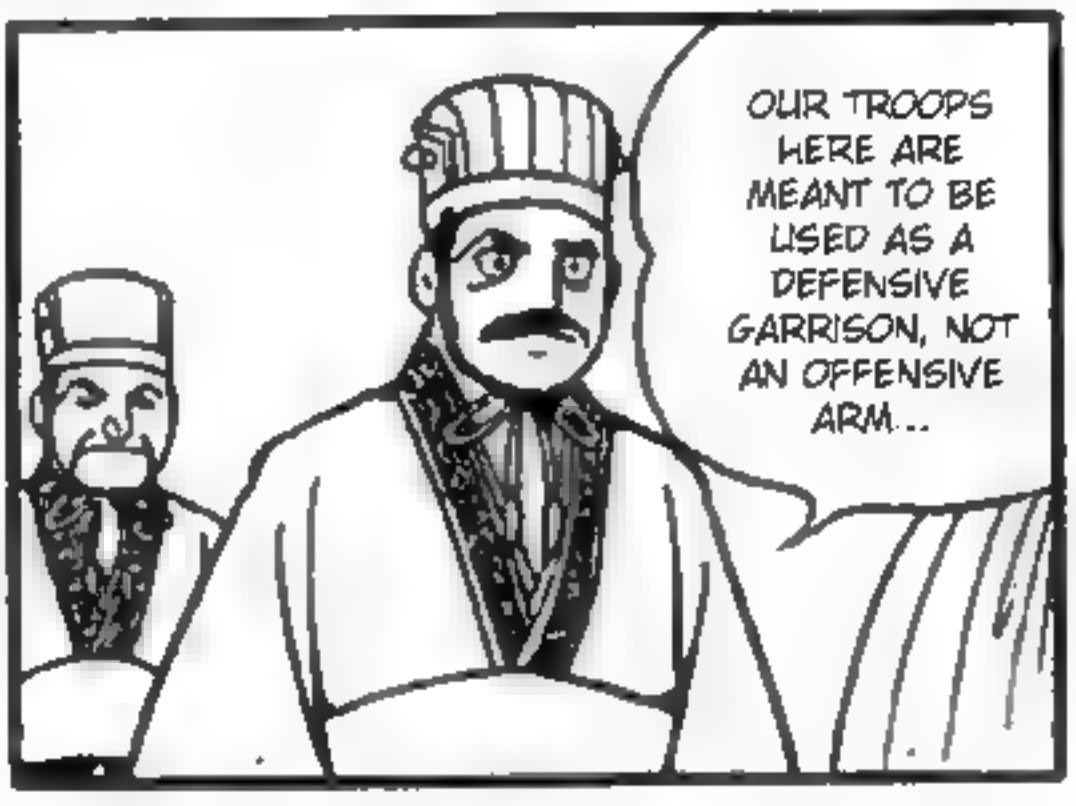
N-NO, SIR! I APOLOGIZE IF I ACCIDENTALLY CONVEYED A TONE OF CALLOUS INDIFFERENCE TO XIAHOU MAO'S PLIGHT.

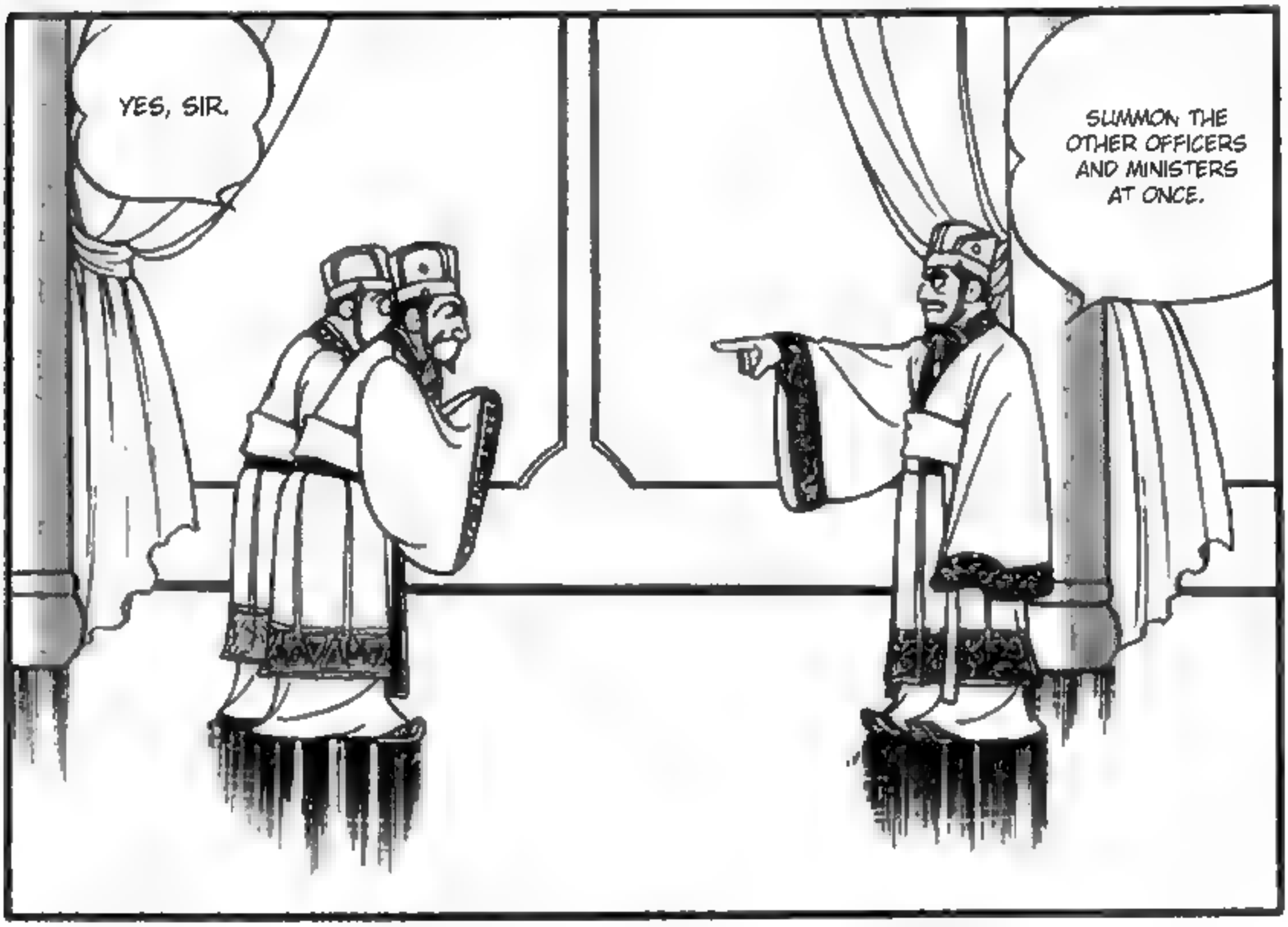
YES, I HOPE YOU MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE I MUST DEPART NOW AS THE SITUATION IS URGENT.

UNDERSTOOD, SIR. I MUST DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE REST OF THE MINISTERS BEFORE ACTING, HOWEVER.




STILL, IF XIAHOU MAO LATER REALIZES YOU REFUSED TO SEND HIM AID, HE WILL MOST CERTAINLY SEE TO IT THAT YOU ARE PUNISHED TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW.


OUR TROOPS HERE ARE MEANT TO BE USED AS A DEFENSIVE GARRISON, NOT AN OFFENSIVE ARM...


YES, SIR.
SUMMON THE OTHER OFFICERS AND MINISTERS AT ONCE.

WITH NANAN CURRENTLY BESIEGED BY SHU FORCES, XIAHOU MAO HAS REQUESTED WE SEND REINFORCEMENTS. I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE COMPLIED.

?

HOLD ON A MOMENT, SIR!

WHAT!?

YOU MUST NOT TAKE THE TROOPS OUT FROM THE CITY WALLS. IF YOU DO, YOU WILL NEVER RETURN TO TIANSHUI ALIVE.

THEY SAY HE'S A PRODIGY WHOSE TEACHERS HAD NOTHING LEFT TO TEACH HIM BY THE TIME HE WAS 16.

JIANG WEI. HE HAILS FROM JICHENG.

WHO IS THIS YOUTH?

KONGMING ALREADY HAS YOU PLAYING ON THE PALM OF HIS HAND.

ON WHAT BASIS DO YOU MAKE SUCH A BOLD CLAIM, JIANG WEI?

IF NANAN IS SO TIGHTLY BESIEGED THAT IT URGENTLY NEEDS REINFORCE-MENTS TO BE SAVED, HOW COULD XIAHOU MAO SNEAK A MESSEN-GER OUT?

WHAT? EXPLAIN!

THIS IS CLEARLY A RUSE BY KONGMING. HE WILL AMBUSH YOU ONCE YOU SET OUT FROM TIANSHUI, WHILE ANOTHER SHU FORCE WILL CAPTURE THE GARRISON-LESS TIANSHUI.

AH!

THAT IS ODD.

QUITE LIKELY, SIR.

SHU FORCES ARE ALREADY STATIONED NEARBY FOR AN AMBUSH?

HMM...

THIS IS MY PREDICTION BASED ON THE CURRENT STATE OF THE WAR AND THE KIND OF COMMANDER THAT KONGMING IS.

IT IS CERTAINLY POSSIBLE THAT MESSENGER WAS A FAKE.

A SINGLE LETTER IS NOT CREDIBLE ENOUGH, SIR.

WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF YOU MEN?

VERY WELL, I'VE DECIDED NOT TO TAKE OUT THE GARRISON.

HMM...

HOW?

. . . .

SIR, HOW ABOUT WE USE KONGMING'S RUSE TO OUR ADVANTAGE?

. . .

MEANWHILE, YOU SHOULD ALSO MARCH OUT WITH A FORCE OF YOUR OWN.

GIVE ME 3000 TROOPS, AND I WILL HIDE THEM IN THE NEARBY HILLS.

YOU SHOULD ALSO TURN BACK AROUND TO TIANSHUI ONCE YOU'VE MARCHED ABOUT 20 OR 30 LI. TOGETHER, WE CAN COMPLETELY SURROUND THE SHU FORCE AND ANNHILATE THEM.

I AM SURE A SHU FORCE WILL THEN COME HERE TO CAPTURE WHAT THEY THINK IS A CITY WITH NO GARRISON, ONLY TO BE AMBUSHED BY MY 3000 TROOPS.

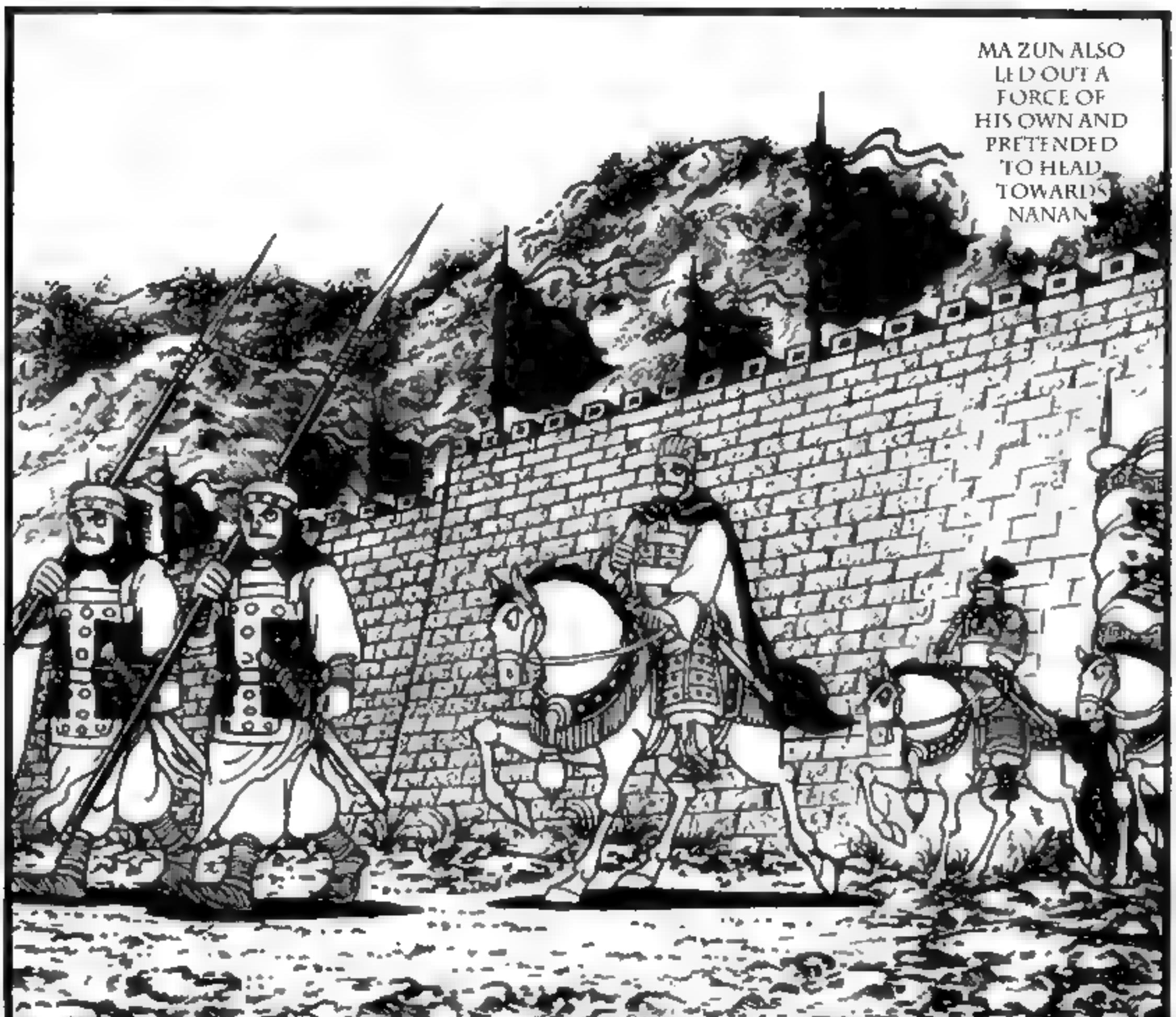
YES, LET'S GIVE IT A TRY!

IT'LL ONLY BE A SMALL DETACHED SHU FORCE, SO THERE SHOULDN'T BE TOO MUCH OF A RISK...
SOUNDS INTER-ESTING.

THANK YOU, SIR.
I WILL GRANT YOU THE 3000 TROOPS YOU NEED.

JIANG WEI IMMEDIATELY LED OUT 3000 TROOPS

AND THEY FOUND A SUITABLE HIDING SPOT IN THE NEARBY HILLS


MA ZUN ALSO LED OUT A FORCE OF HIS OWN AND PRETENDED TO HEAD TOWARDS NANAN

DID HE?

GENERAL! MA ZUN JUST LED OUT TROOPS FROM TIANSHUI!

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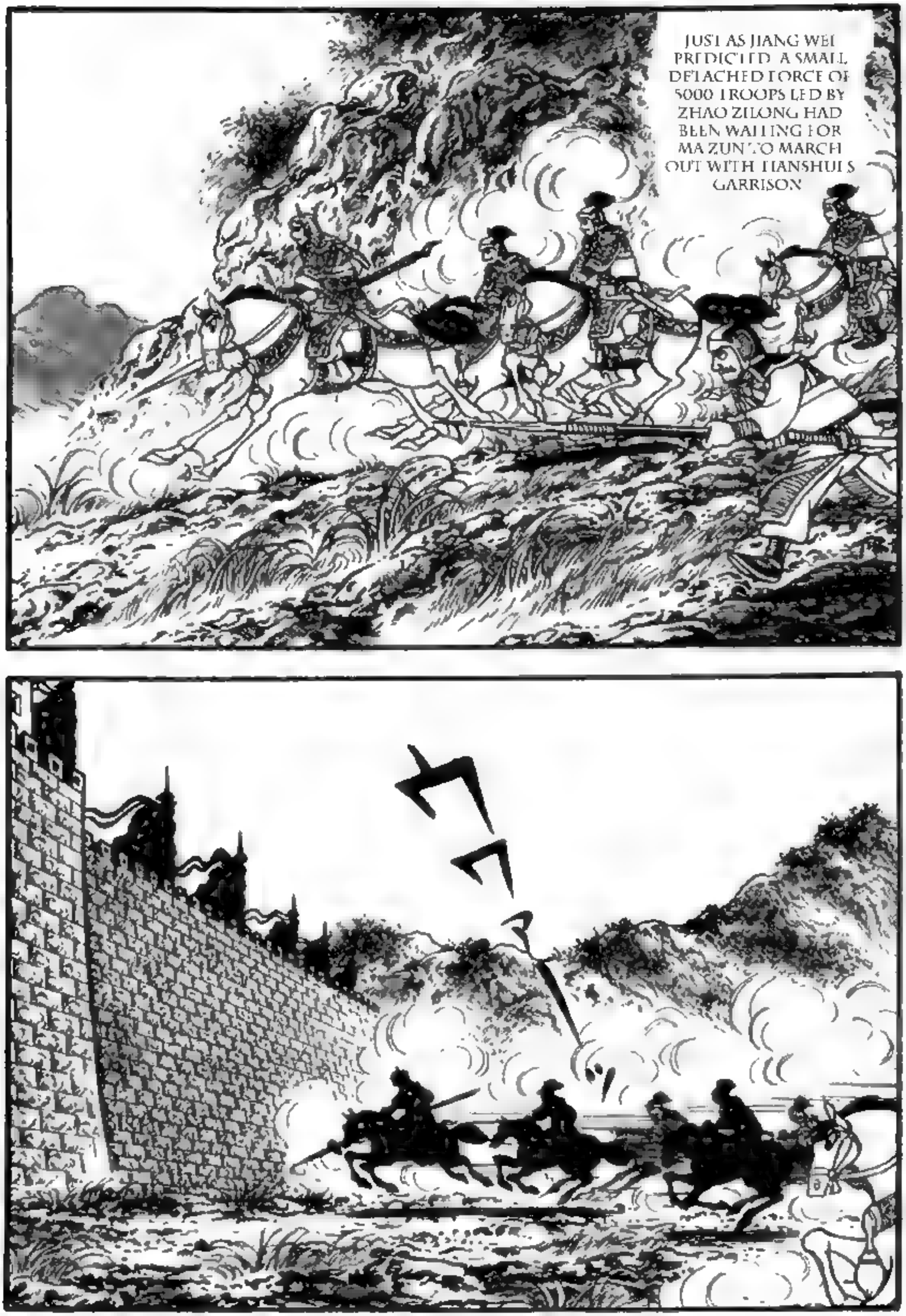
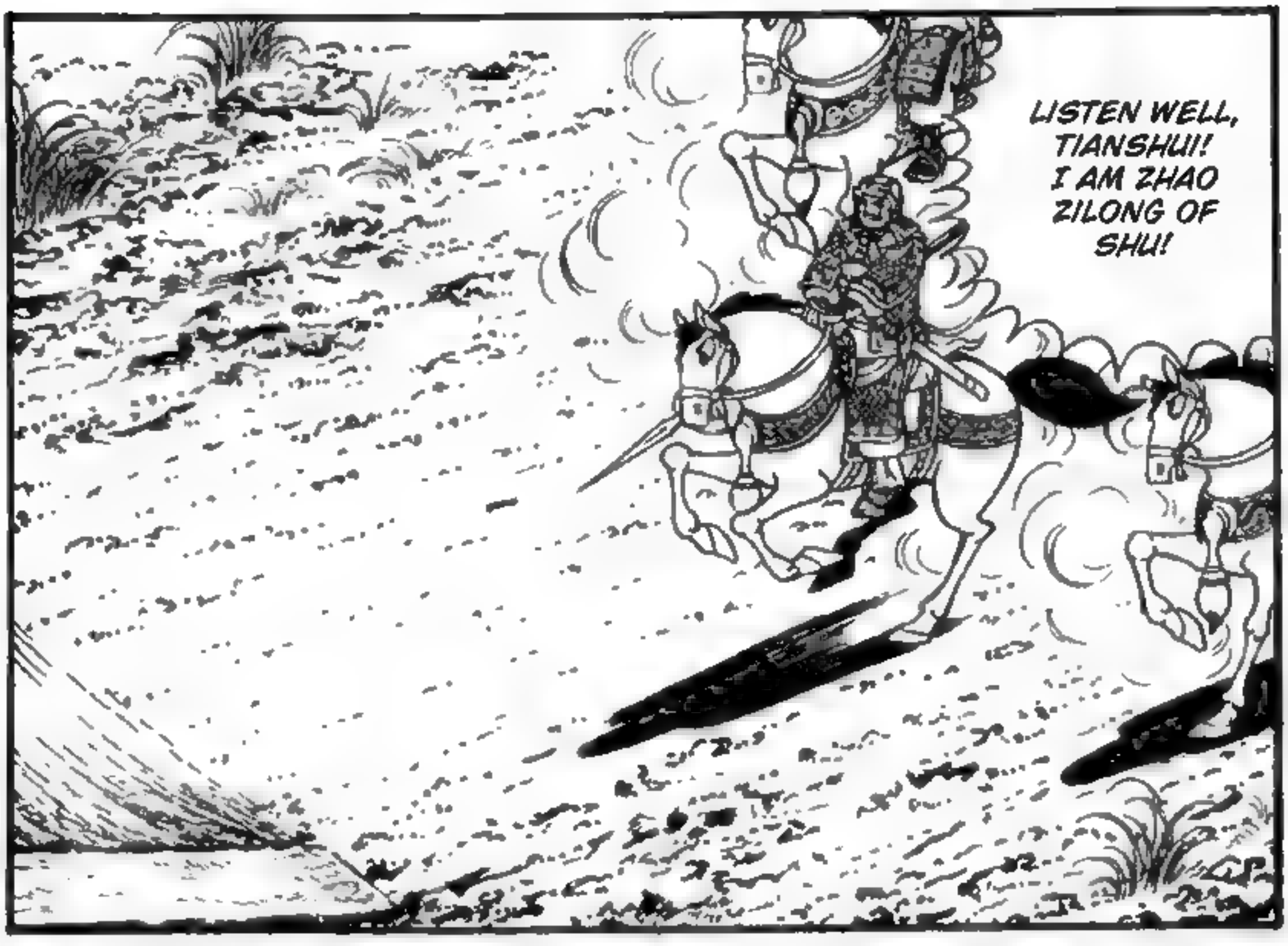
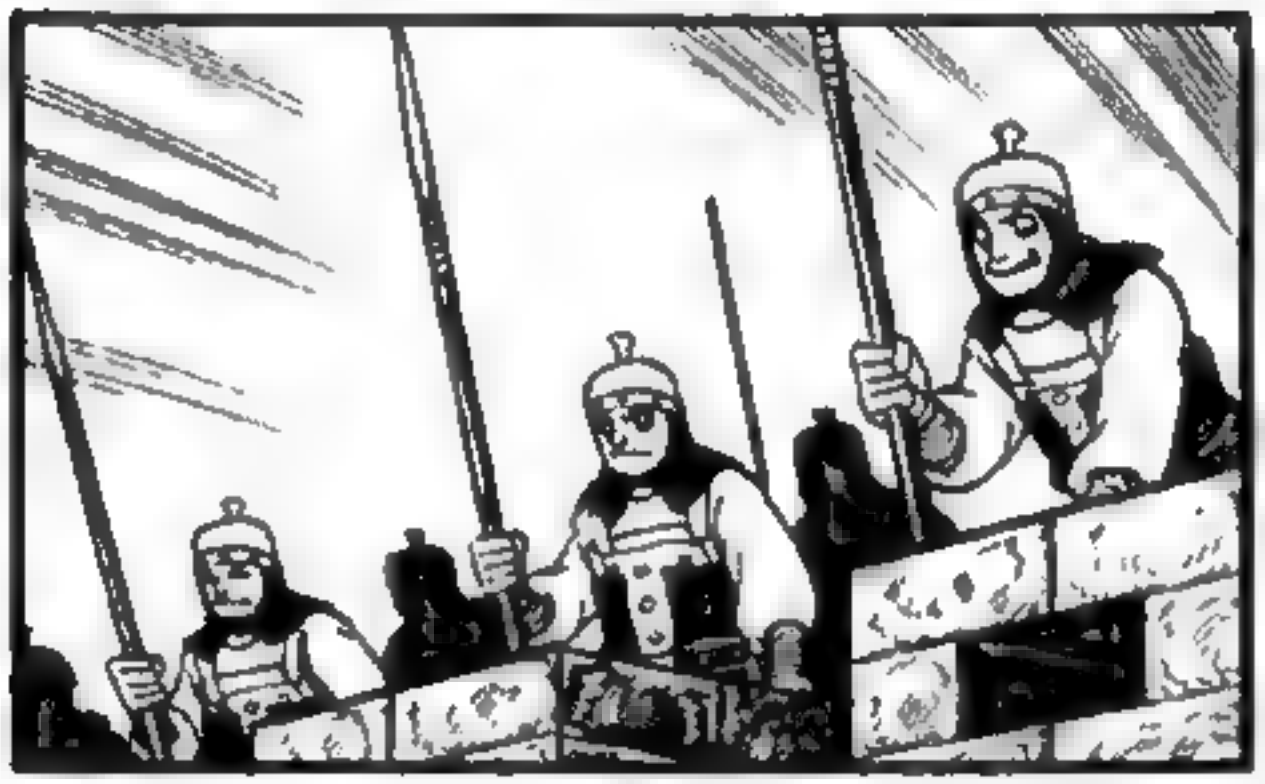
趙

THERE SHOULD HARDLY BE ANY GARRISON LEFT IN TIANSHUI! THE PLAN IS TO QUICKLY STORM IN AND PLACE THE SHU FLAG ATOP ITS WALLS!


JUST AS JIANG WEI PREDICTED, A SMALL DETACHED FORCE OF 5000 TROOPS LED BY ZHAO ZILONG HAD BEEN WAITING FOR MA ZUN TO MARCH OUT WITH TIANSHUI'S GARRISON


LISTEN WELL, TIANSHUI! I AM ZHAO ZILONG OF SHU!

YOUR GOVERNOR HAS FALLEN FOR OUR TRAP BY LEADING OUT THE GARRISON! OPEN THE GATES AND WE WILL SPARE ALL INSIDE!



HAHAHA! ON THE CONTRARY, IT'S YOU WHO'S FALLEN FOR JIANG WEI'S TRAP!

WHAT? THERE ARE STILL SOLDIERS LEFT?

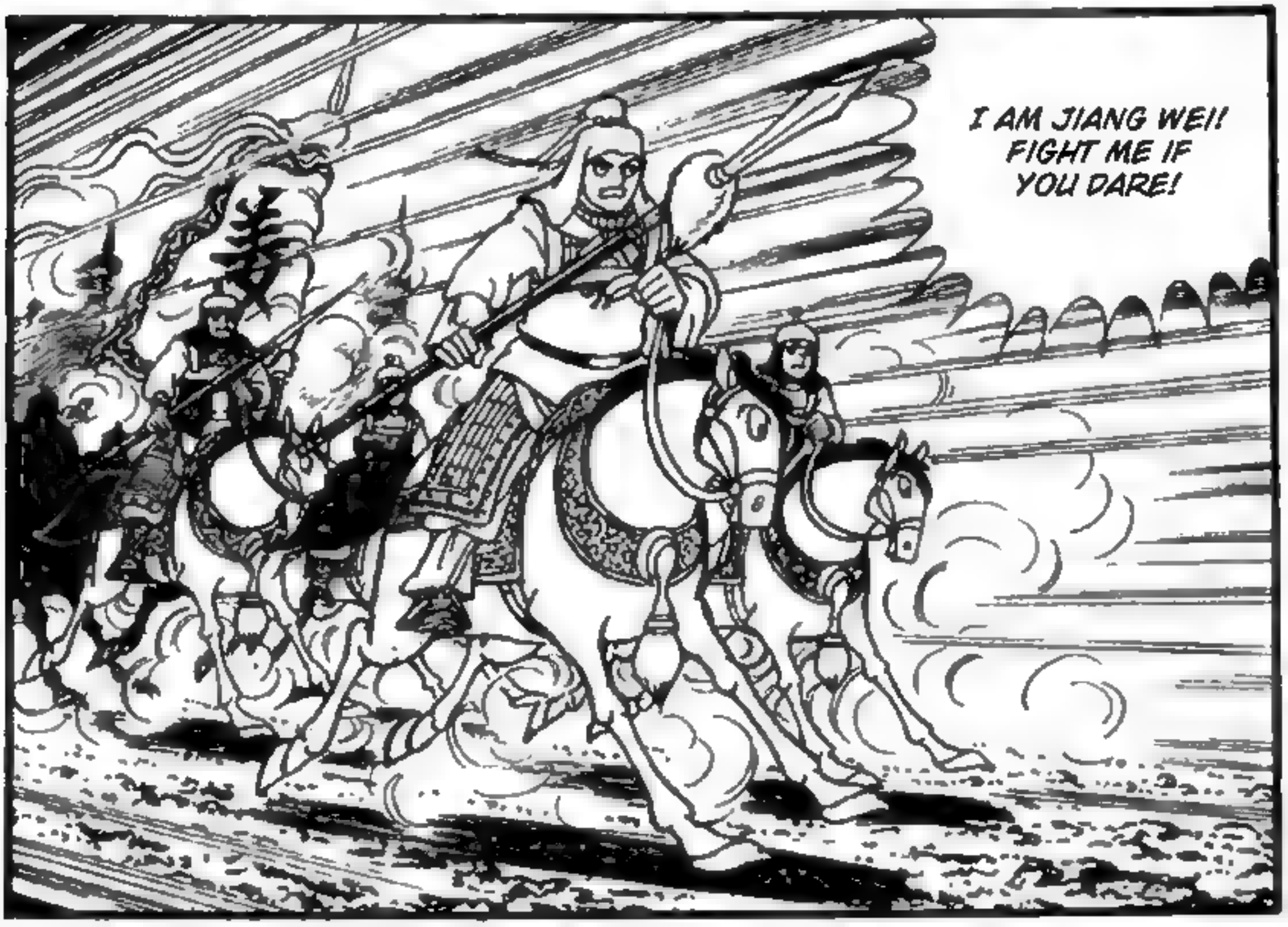
WHAT!?

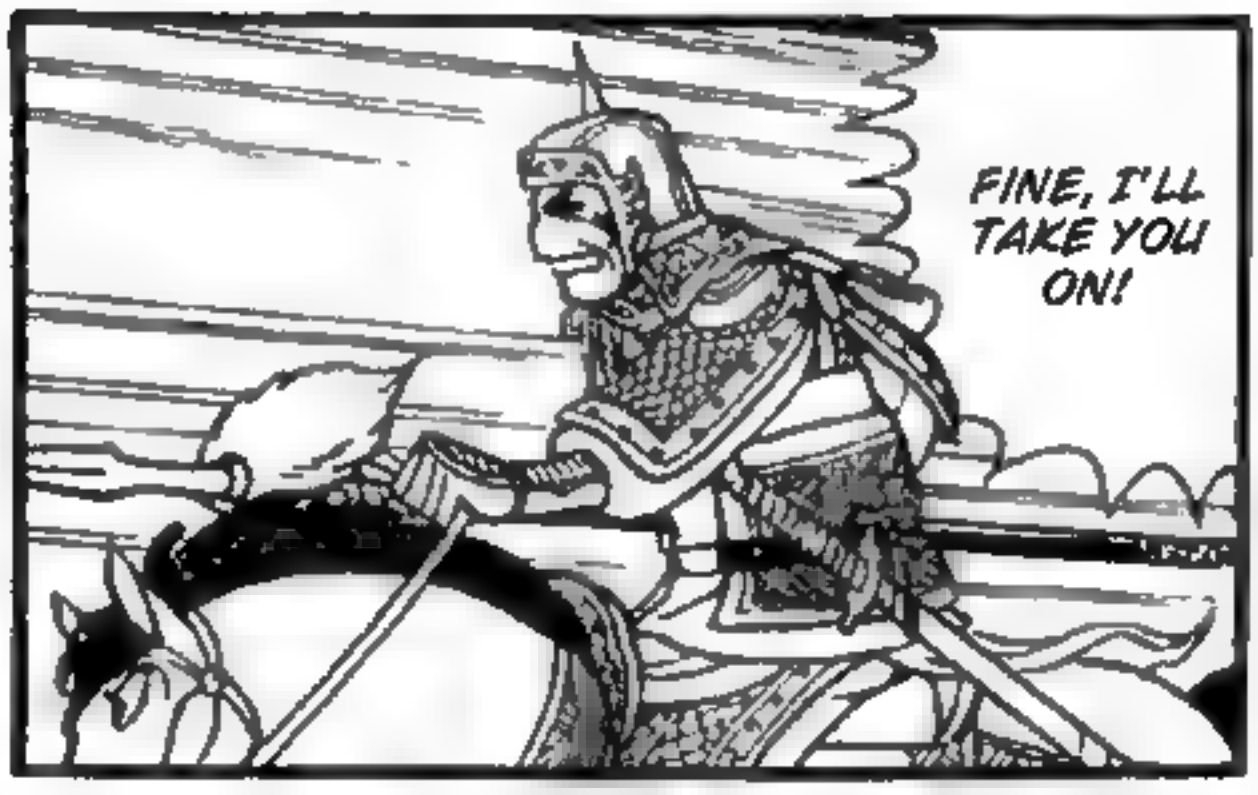
JIANG WEI COULD SEE THROUGH YOUR FLIMSY TRICK FROM THE START!

?

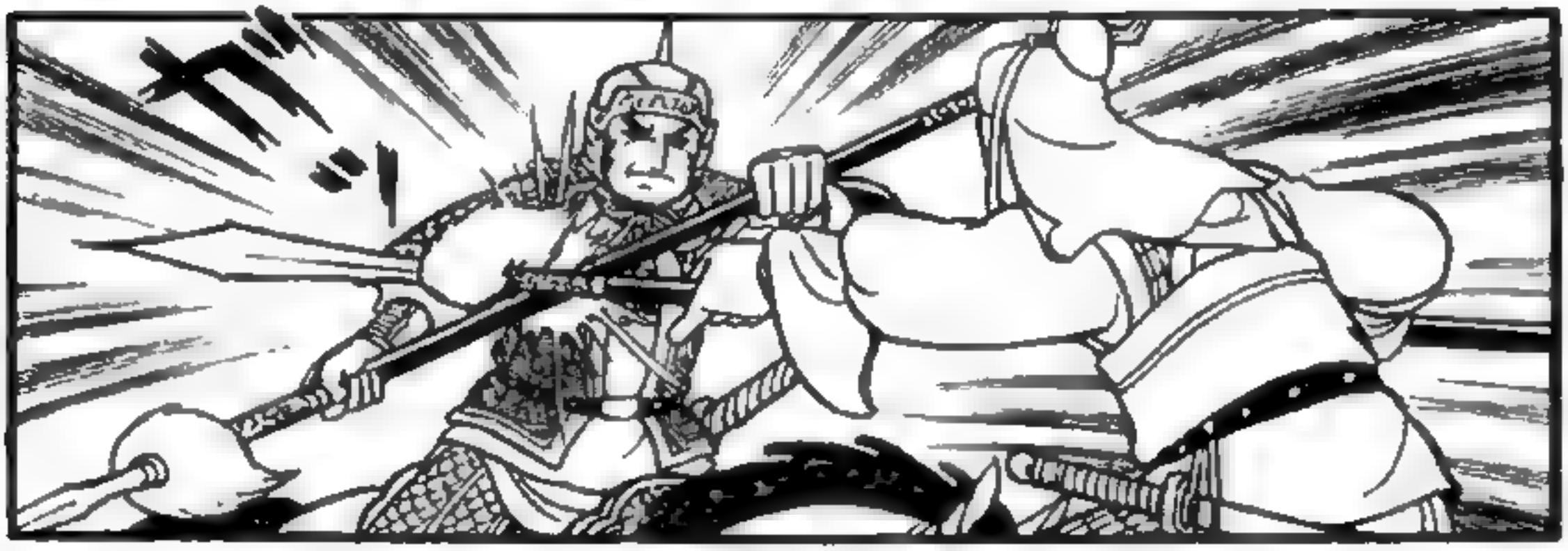
TAKE A LOOK!

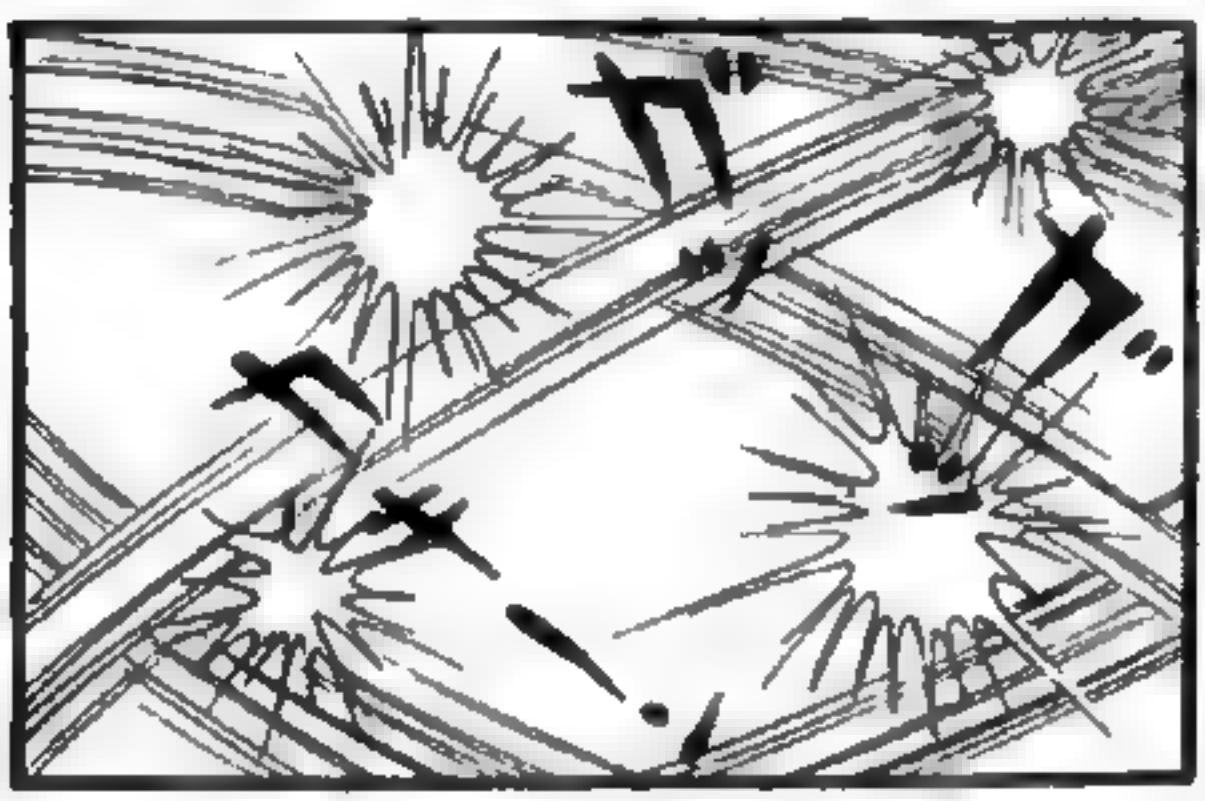
AHH!

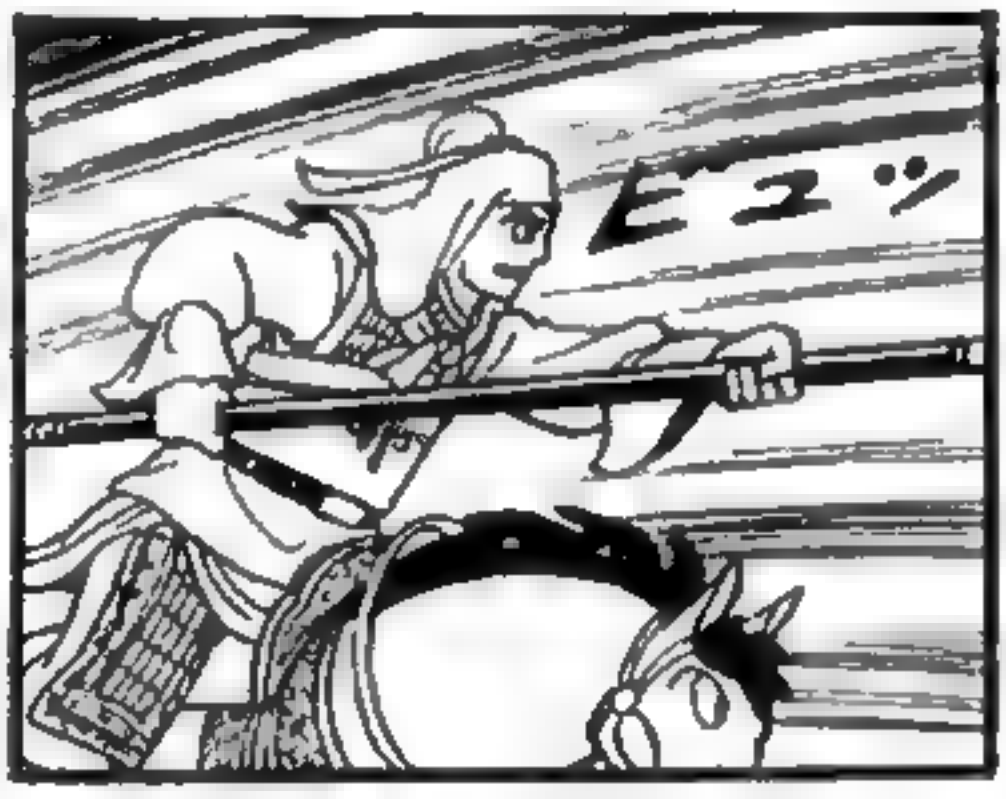

I AM JIANG WEI! FIGHT ME IF YOU DARE!


FINE, I'LL TAKE YOU ON!

SO THAT LITTLE BRAT IS JIANG WEI!?

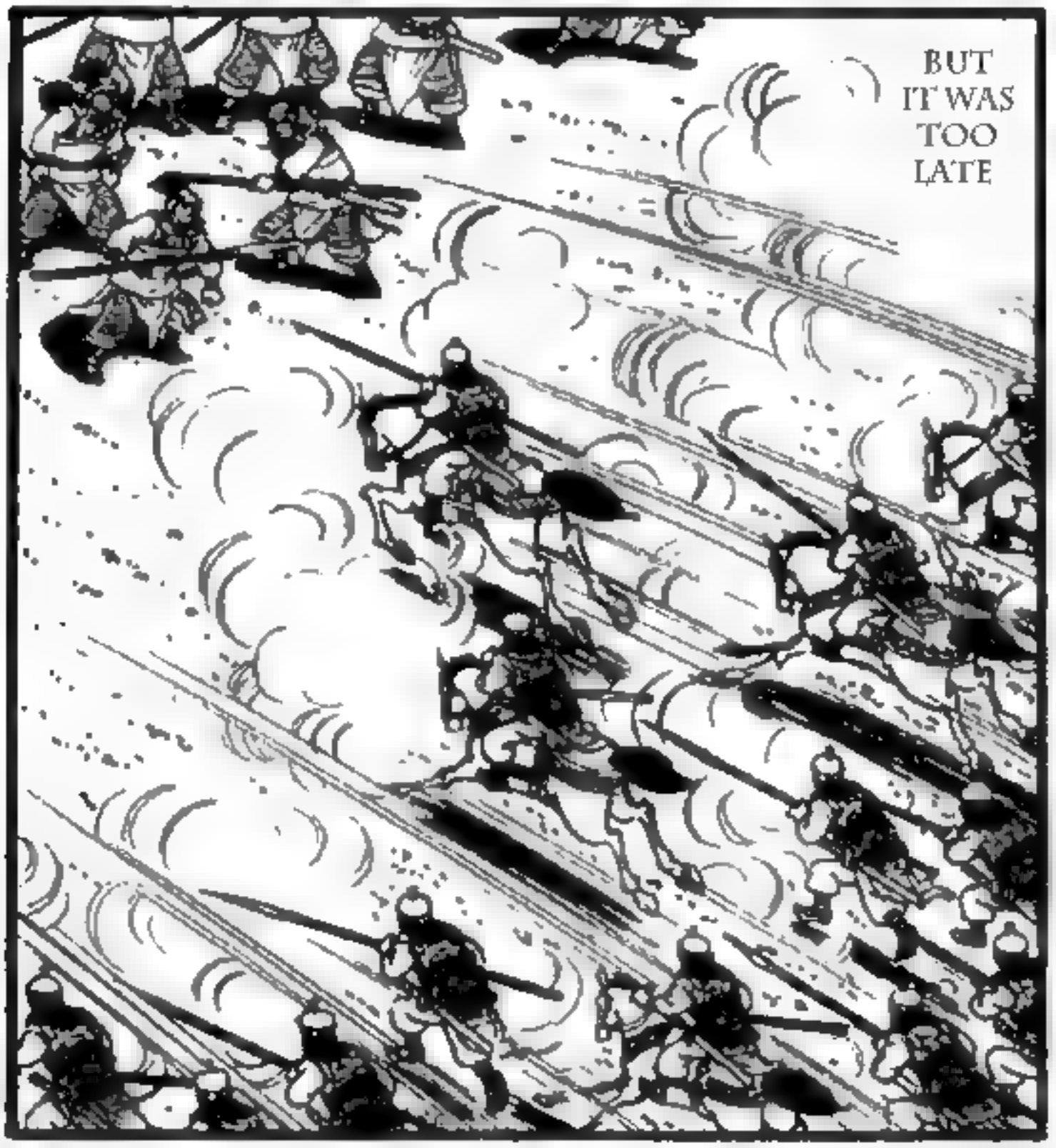


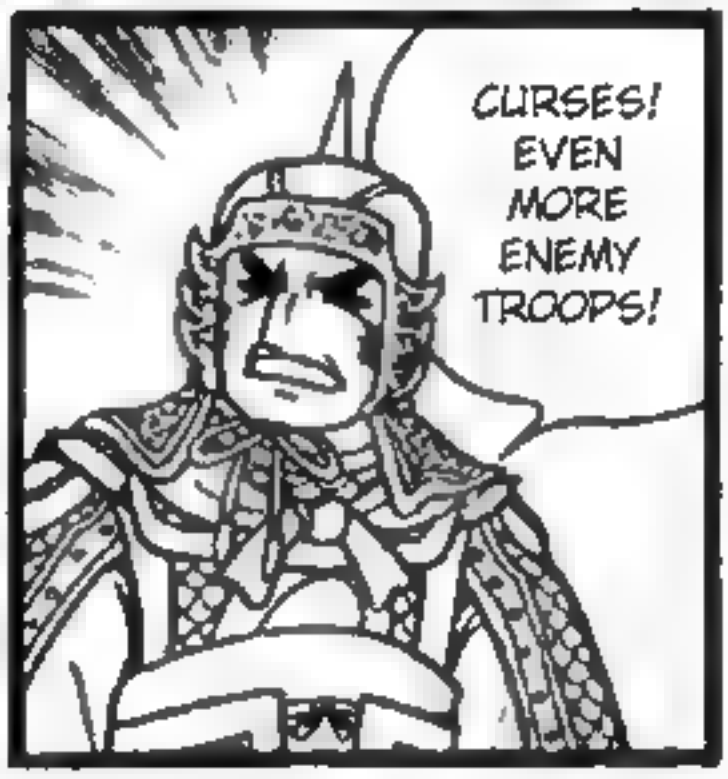




I NEVER WOULD HAVE IMAGINED THERE WAS A MAN SO ADEPT WITH THE SPEAR IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!

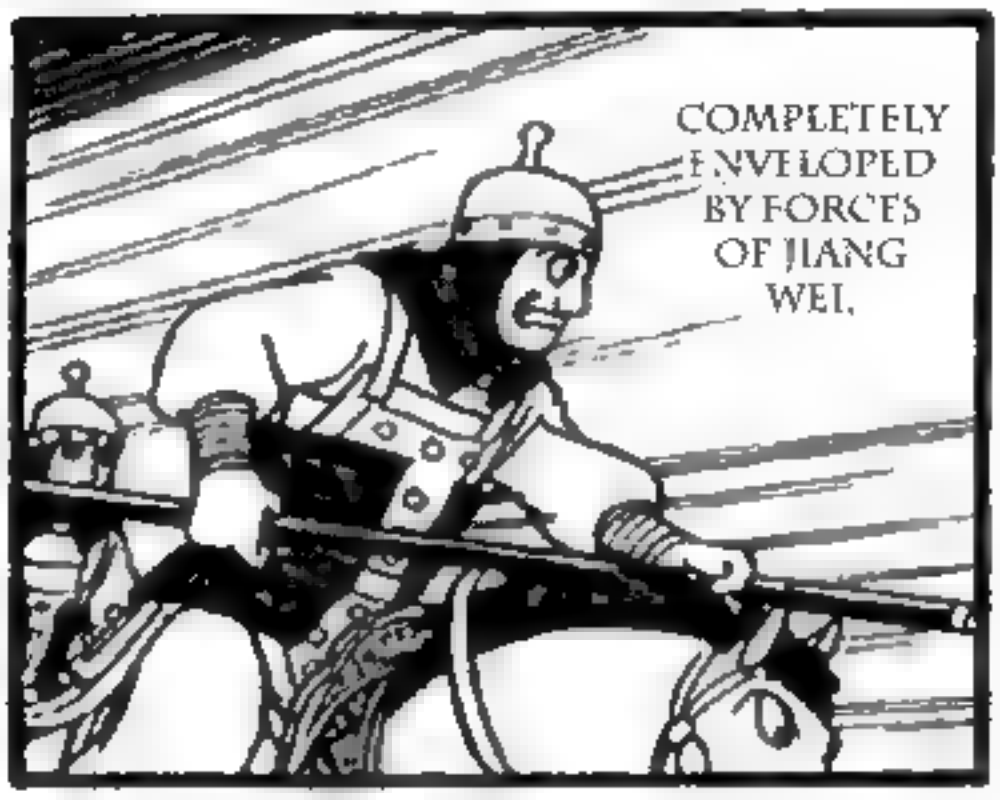
HM?


BUT IT WAS TOO LATE

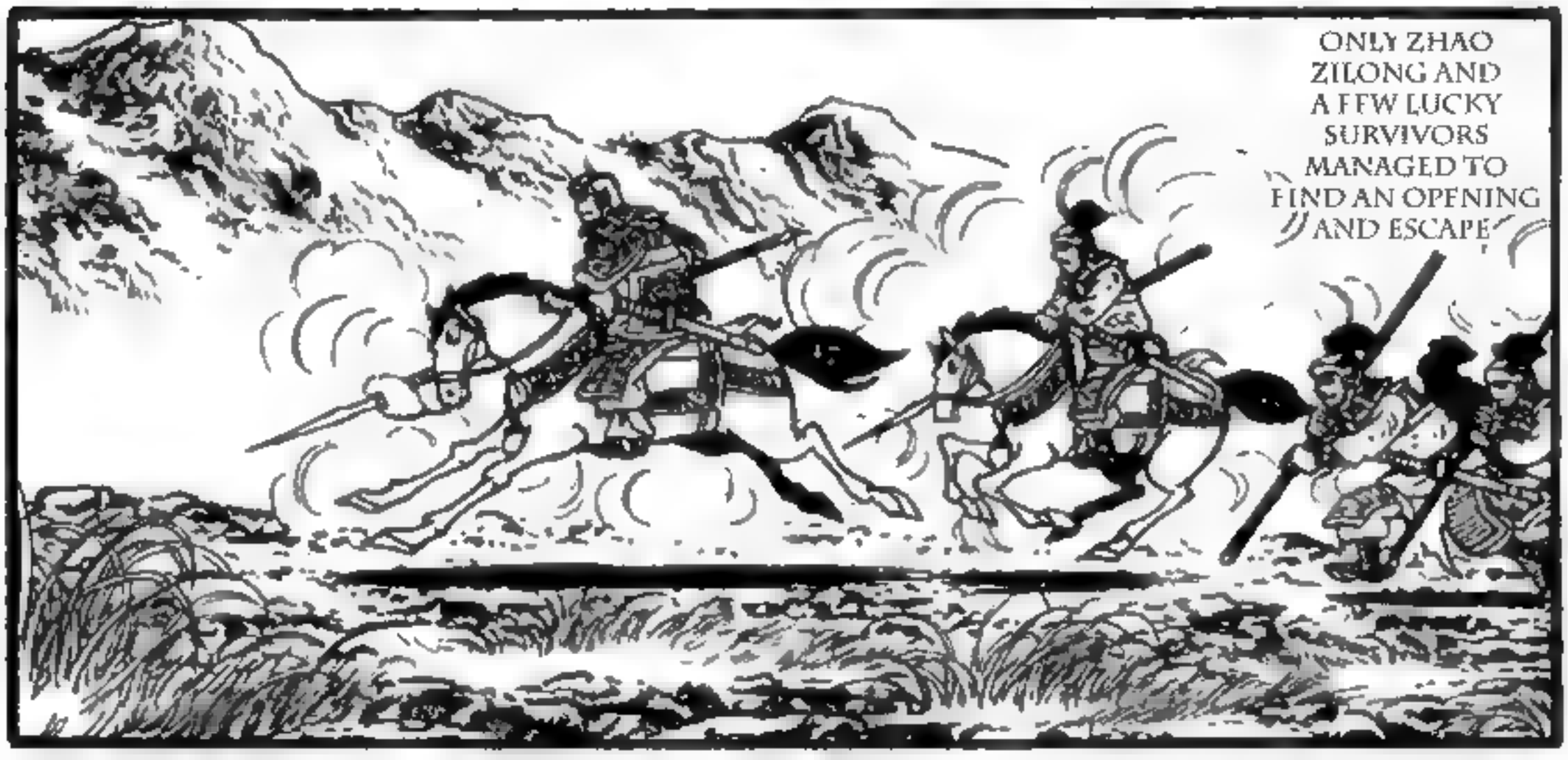

CURSES! EVEN MORE ENEMY TROOPS!

FOCUS ON FIGHTING YOUR WAY OUT, MEN!

AND
MA ZUN,


COMPLETELY
ENVELOPED
BY FORCES
OF JIANG
WEI,

THE SHU
TROOPS
WERE
SWIFTLY
CUT
DOWN


ONLY ZHAO
ZILONG AND
A FEW LUCKY
SURVIVORS
MANAGED TO
FIND AN OPENING
AND ESCAPE

IT WAS A SPECTACULAR DEFEAT. NEVER HAVE I BEEN SO UTTERLY SURPRISED AND DEFEATED BEFORE.

YES.

WHAT!? YOU WERE SURROUNDED!?

IT WAS A YOUNG MAN NAMED JIANG WEI.

JUST WHO EXACTLY SAW THROUGH MY TRICK?

YES, HE SEEMS TO BE BARELY IN HIS EARLY TWENTIES, YET HE COULD FIGHT EVENLY WITH ME. I NEVER REALIZED A MAN SO CAPABLE IN MARTIAL AND MENTAL PROWESS WAS IN TIANSHUI.

. . . .

JIANG WEI?

I HAIL FROM THE SAME CITY OF JICHENG AS HE.

DOES ANYONE HERE KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS MAN?

HIS FATHER DIED AT AN EARLY AGE, SO HE LIVED ONLY WITH HIS MOTHER. HE WAS WELL KNOWN AMONG THE LOCALS FOR HIS FILIAL PIETY.

AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF HIM?

*QILIN: MYTHICAL, HOOVED AND HORNED CREATURE SAID TO SOMETIMES BRING EXTRAORDINARY CHILDREN FROM HEAVEN

HE WAS A CHILD PRODIGY SO SKILLED IN BOTH MARTIAL ARTS AND SCHOLASTICS THAT EVEN JICHENG'S LITERATI COULD NOT BEST HIM. AS SUCH, HE WAS EVEN NICKNAMED THE QILIN-CHILD.
I DIDN'T EVEN GIVE THE CAPTURE OF TIANSHUI A SECOND THOUGHT, BUT IT SEEMS THIS QILIN CHILD WILL GIVE US QUITE A BIT OF TROUBLE...
VERY WELL, I WILL PERSONALLY GO TO TIANSHUI AND OVERSEE ITS CAPTURE.

THANK YOU, SIR.

YOUR PLAN WORKED PERFECTLY, JIANG WEI! ONCE THIS WAR IS OVER, I WILL SEE TO IT YOU ARE GREATLY PROMOTED.

YES, AND IT WILL BE THE PERFECT CHANCE TO CAPTURE HIM.

KONGMING HIMSELF!?

BUT IT IS TOO SOON TO CELEBRATE. WITH ZHAO ZILONG DEFEATED, KONGMING HIMSELF WILL COME TO ATTACK TIANSHUI.

KONGMING WILL THINK WE WILL STRICTLY GUARD OUR WALLS DUE TO OUR SMALLER FORCES.

BUT HOW!?

BUT WHAT IF THEY FIND IT STRANGE THE CITY HAS A RATHER SMALL GARRISON?

I SEE...

BUT WE SHOULD SPLIT UP OUR FORCES INTO FOUR. ONE WILL REMAIN IN THE CITY, WHILE THE OTHER THREE HIDE SOME DISTANCE OUTSIDE THE CITY. AT NIGHT, ALL FOUR PARTS WILL MOUNT A CONCERTED ATTACK AND ROUT THE ENEMIES.

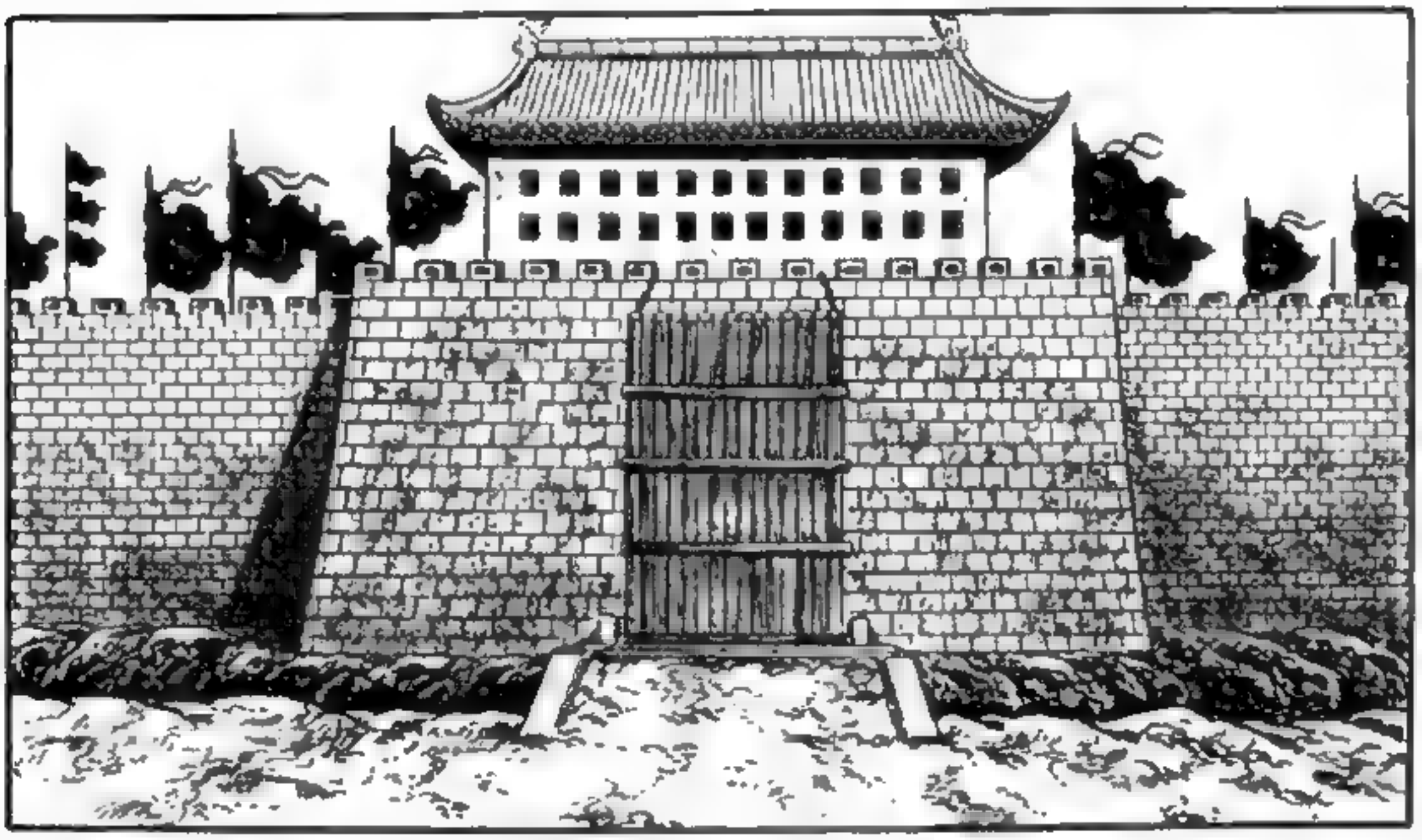
WE CAN POST MORE FLAGS UP ON THE WALLS AND HAVE THE SOLDIERS SHIFT POSITIONS PERIODICALLY.

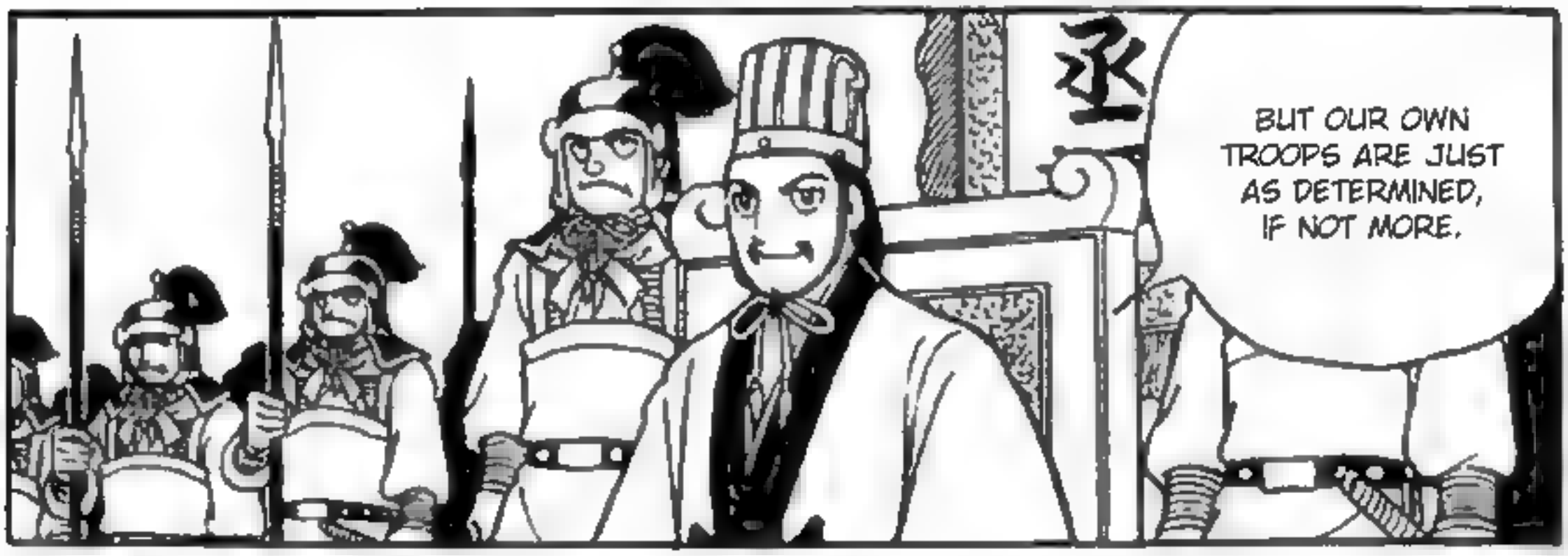
EXCELLENT!

FINE, LET'S GIVE IT A TRY.

HMM...

KONGMING DEFEATED




BUT OUR OWN TROOPS ARE JUST AS DETERMINED, IF NOT MORE.

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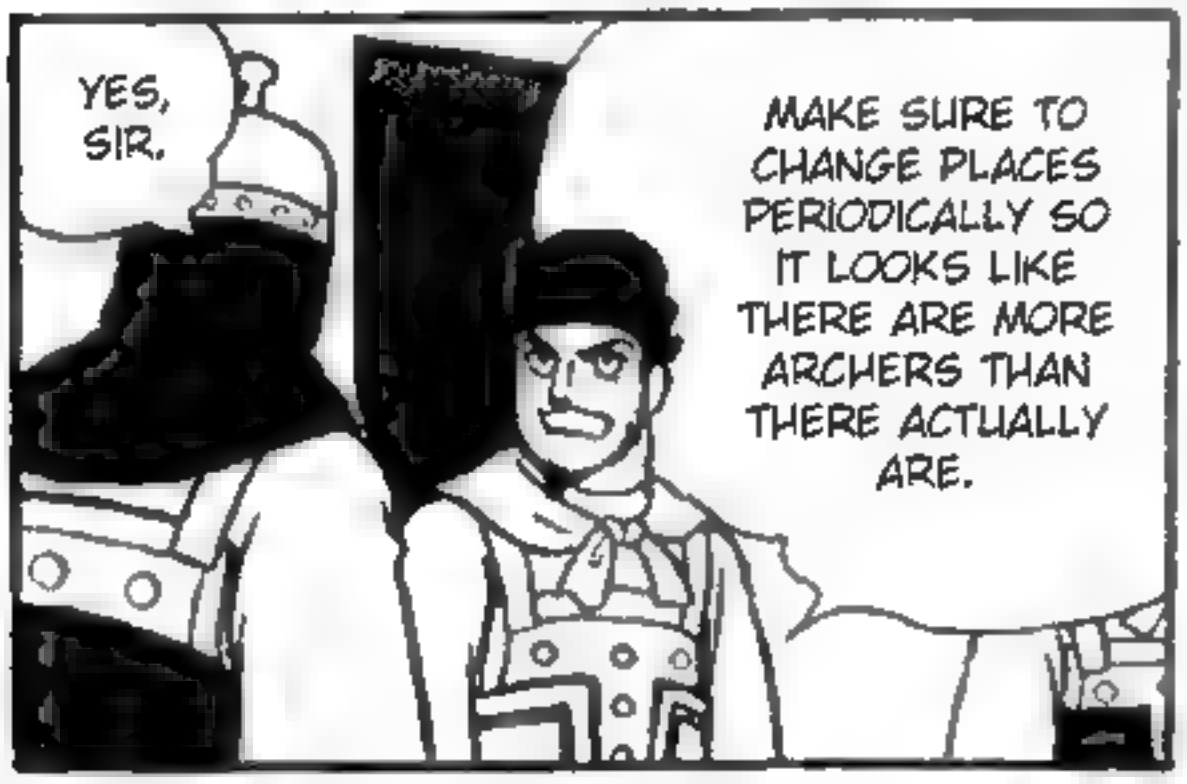
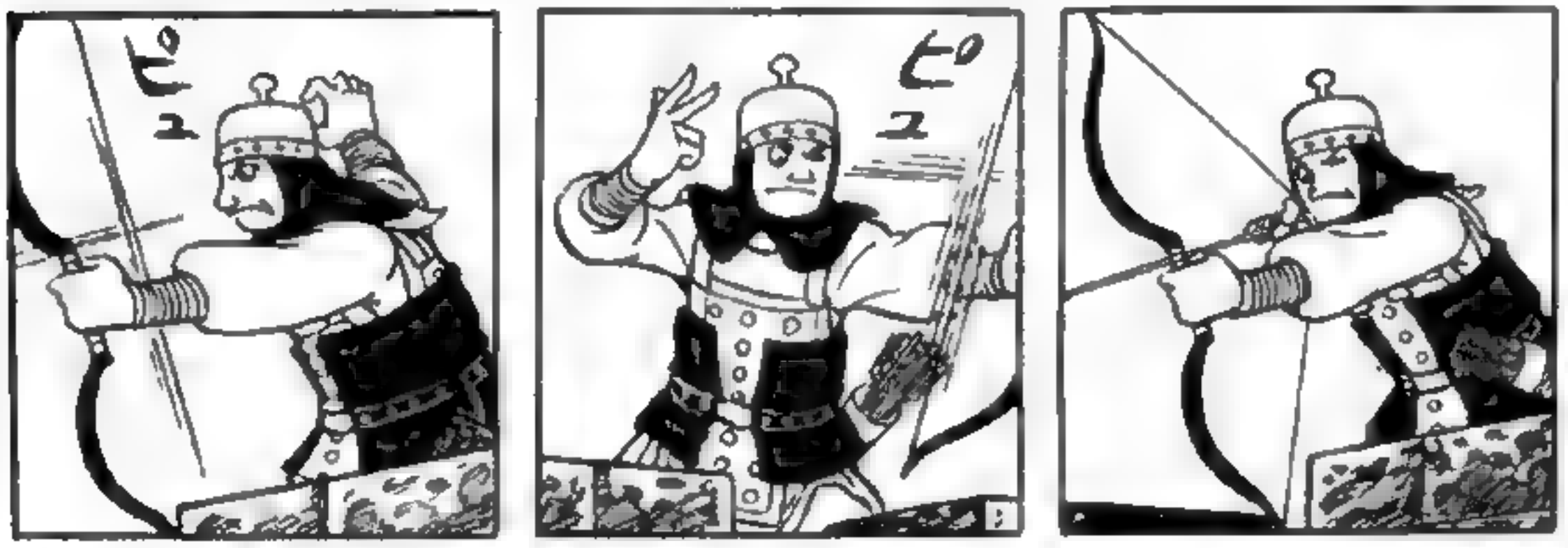
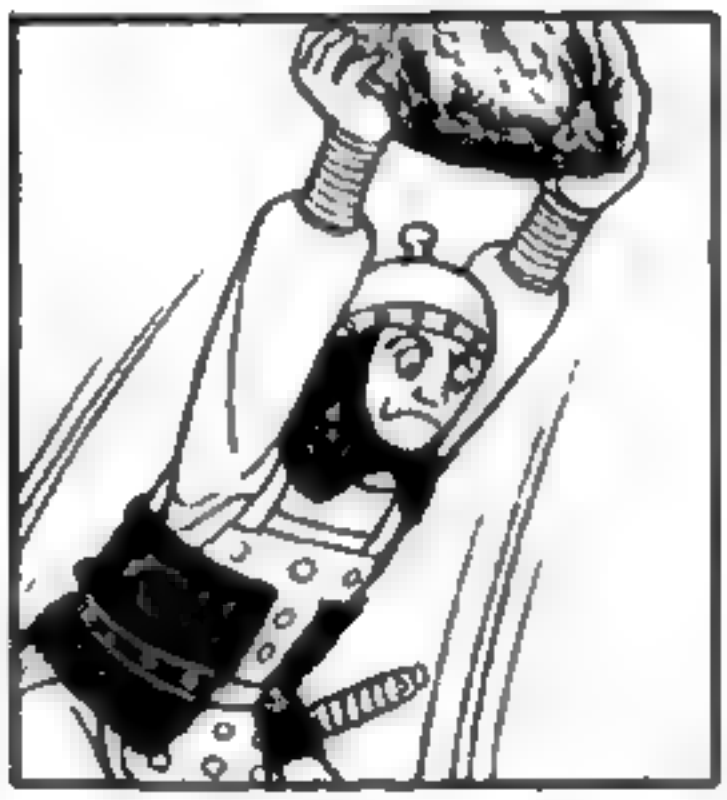
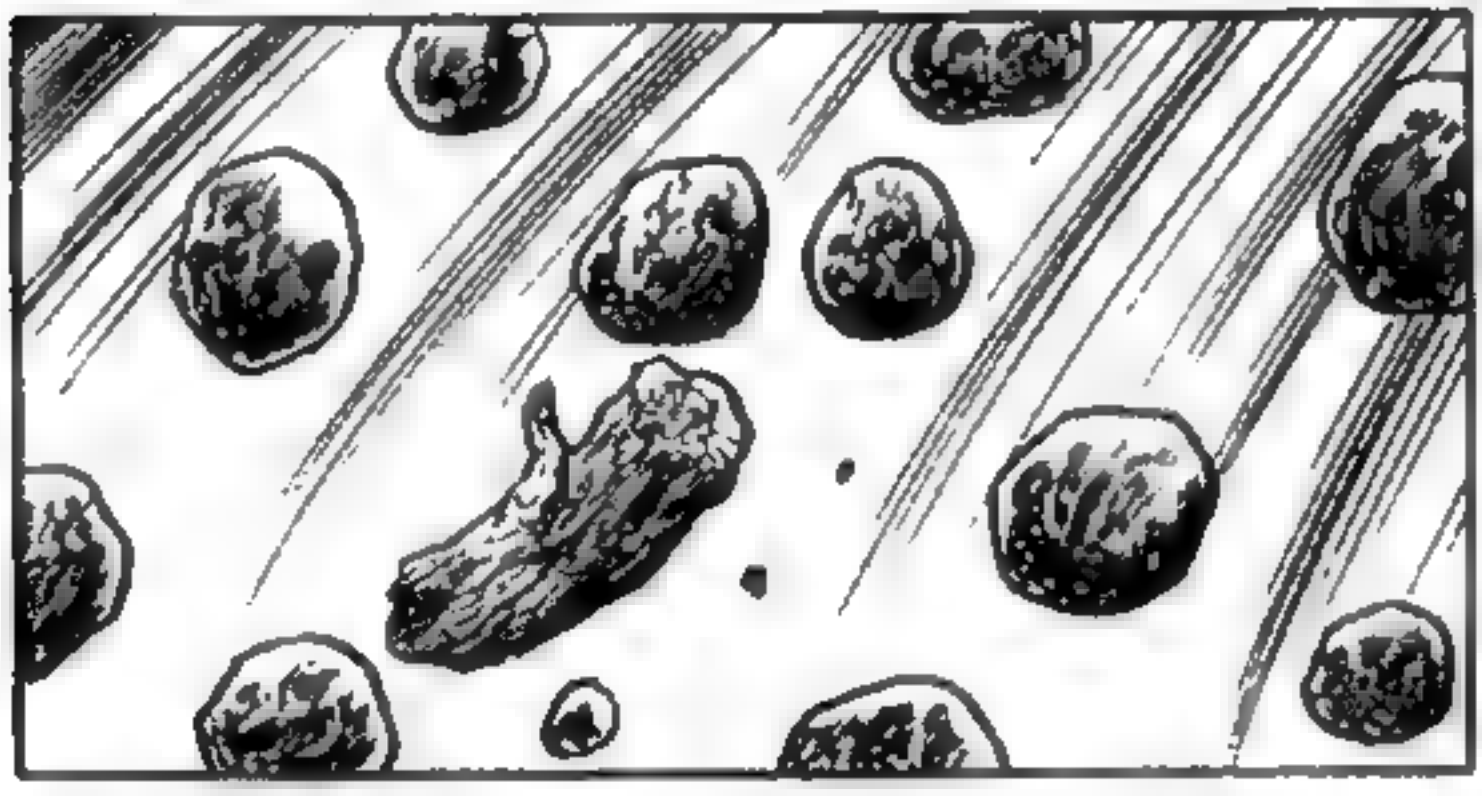
BEGIN THE ASSAULT!

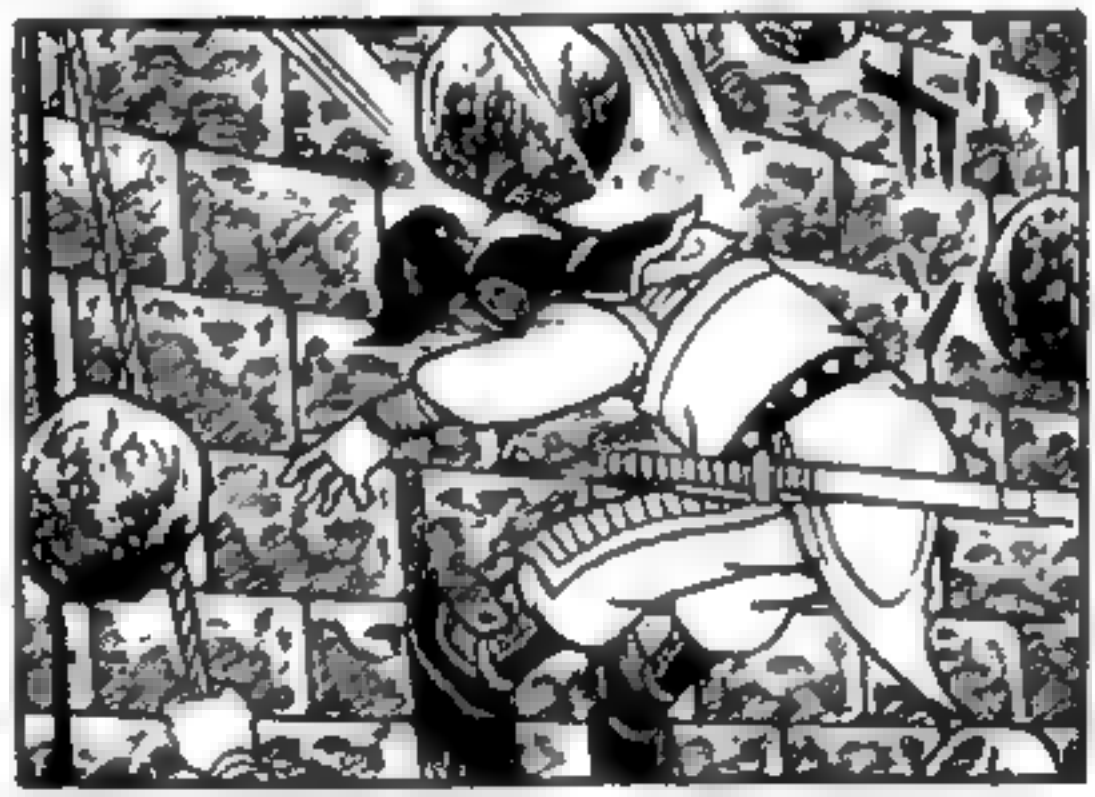

YES, SIR.
MAKE SURE TO CHANGE PLACES PERIODICALLY SO IT LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE MORE ARCHERS THAN THERE ACTUALLY ARE.

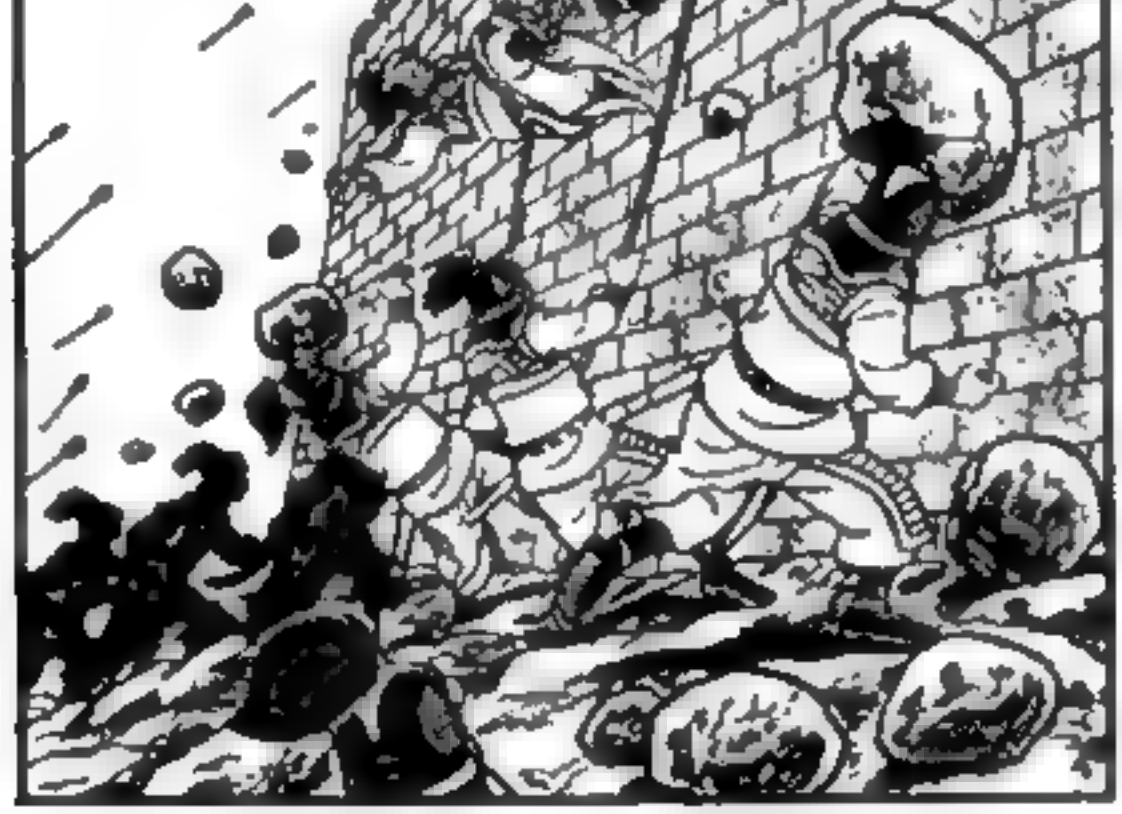
HERE THEY COME.

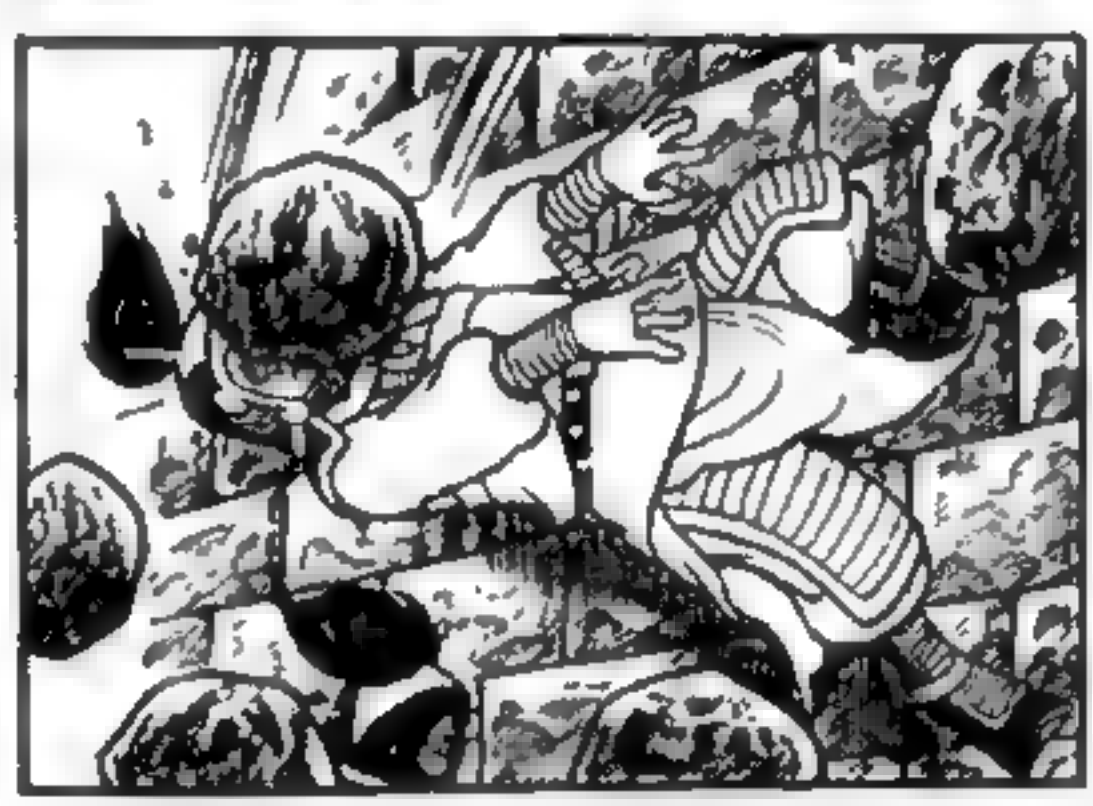






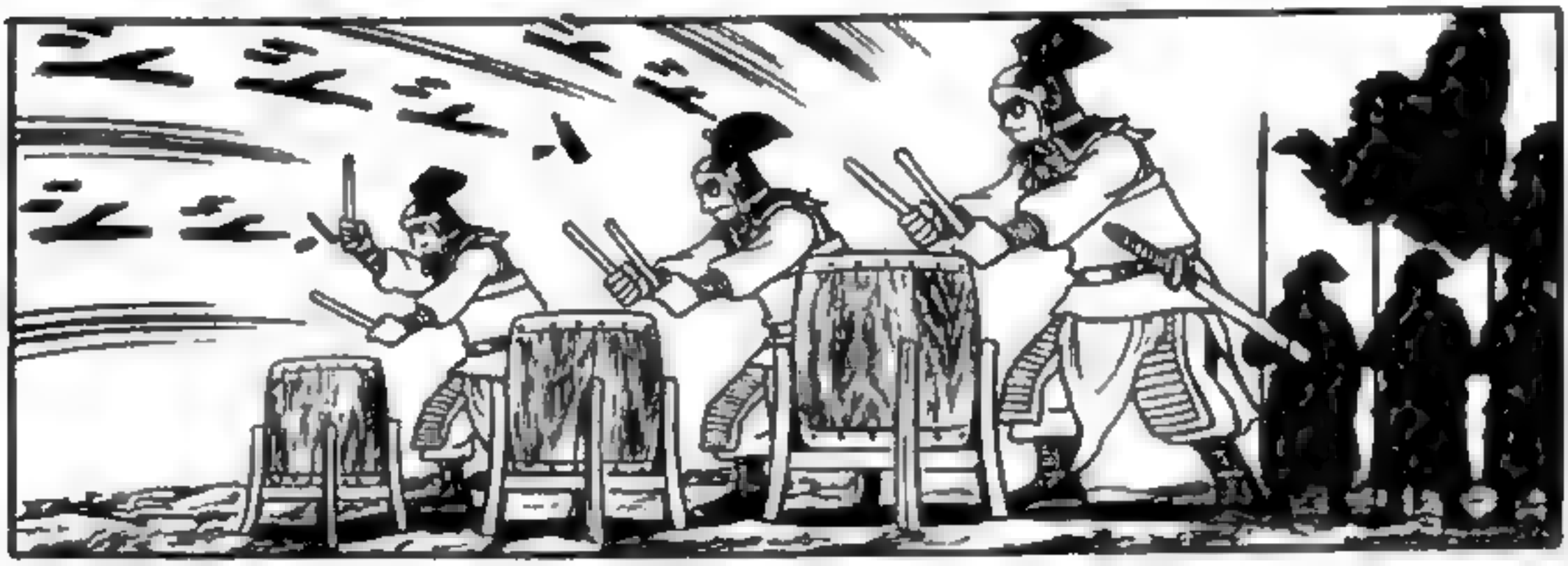






GIVE THE WITHDRAW SIGNAL!

HMM... THE DEFENSES ARE TOUGHTER THAN I IMAGINED. RUSHING FOR A QUICK ASSAULT WILL LEAD TO HEAVY CASUALTIES.



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BUT A QUICK ASSAULT WILL ONLY BRING ABOUT HIGH CASUALTIES THAT I CAN'T EXACTLY AFFORD...
WHAT TO DO...? I MUST NOT LET THE SIEGE HERE DRAG ON FOR LONG.

HM?

WHAT!? FROM OUR REAR!?

ENEMIES HAVE APPEARED TO THE REAR TO RAID OUR CAMPS!

AHH!

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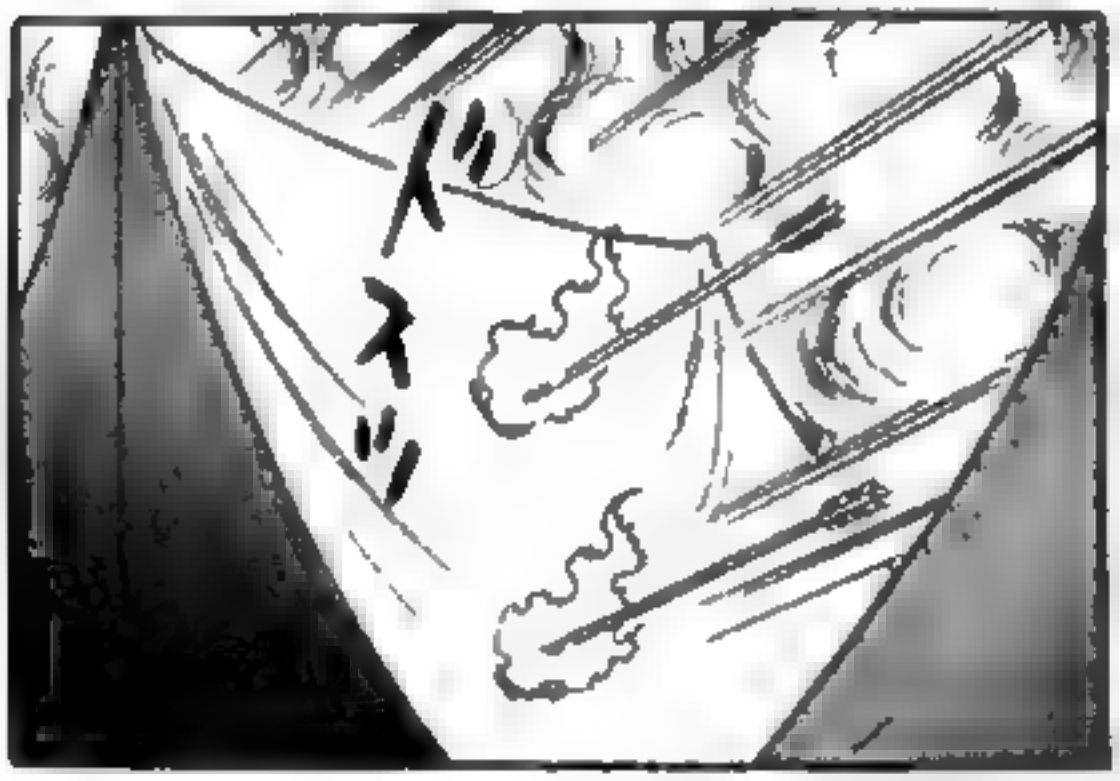
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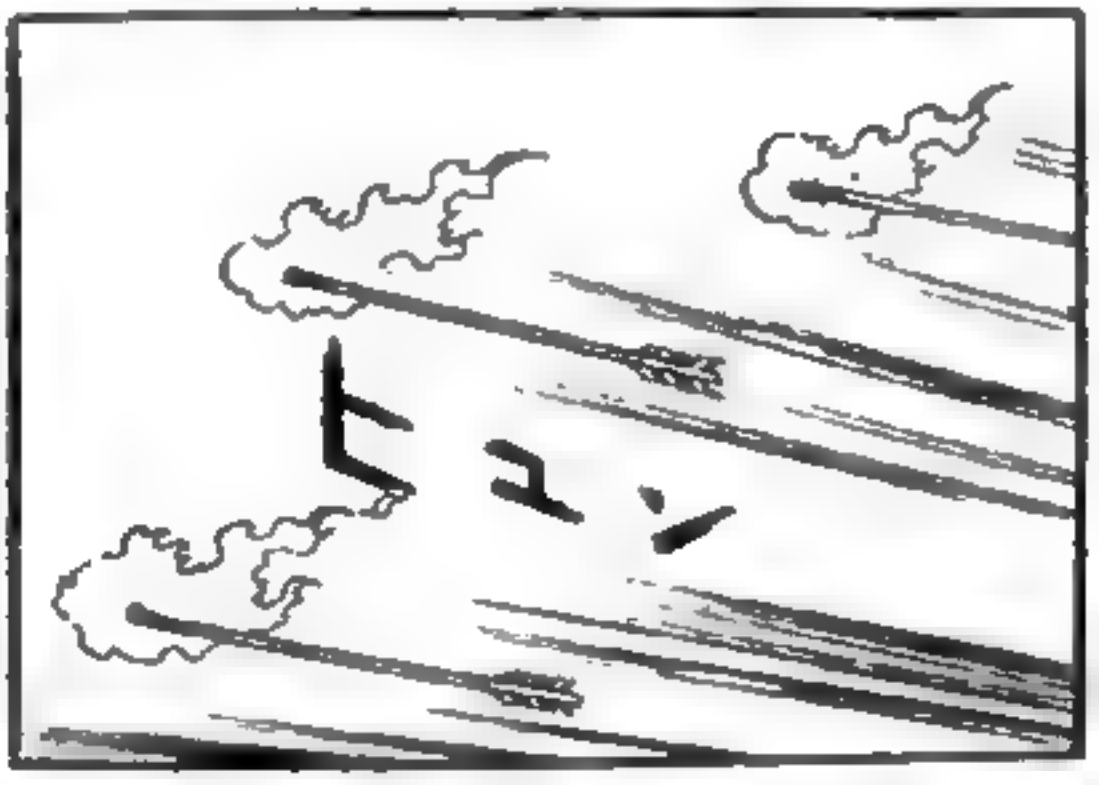
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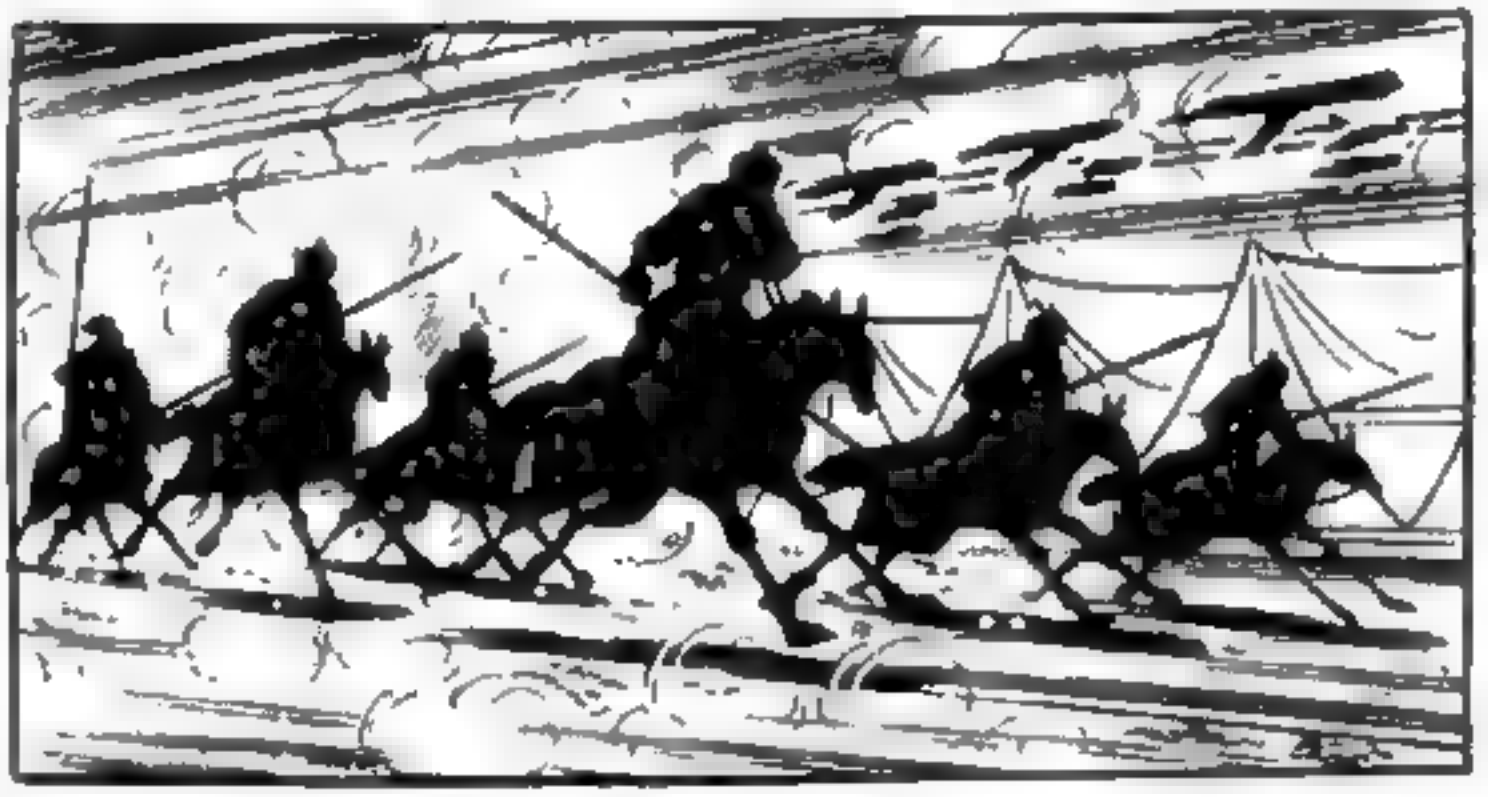
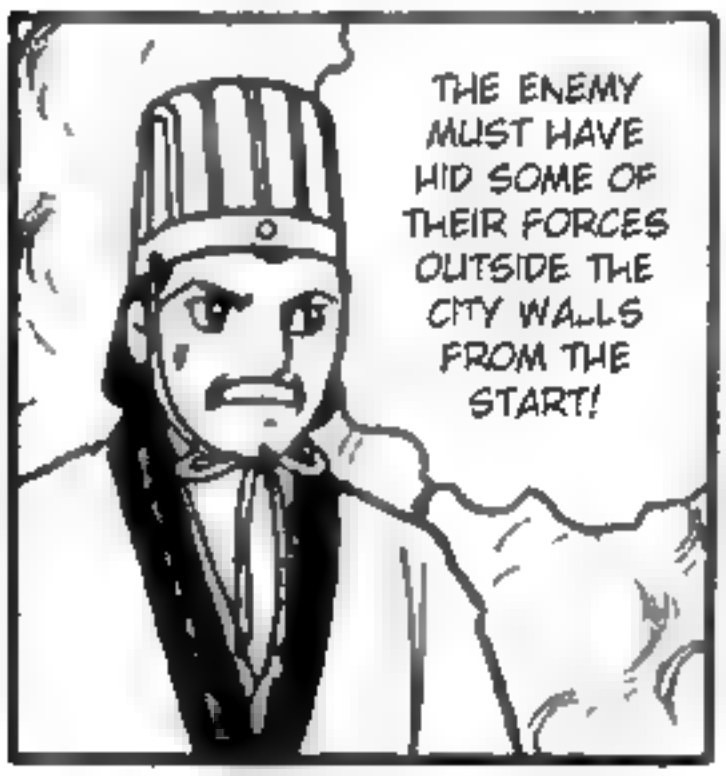
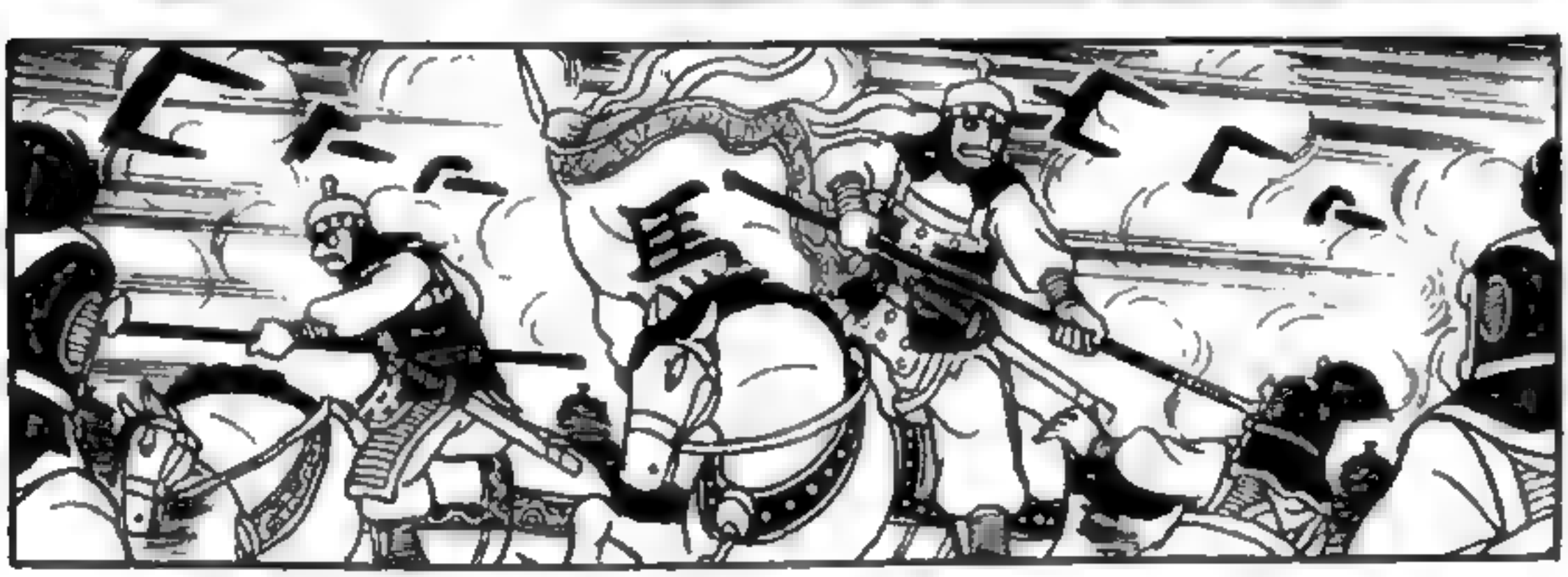


MORE ENEMIES HAVE ARRIVED, SIR!

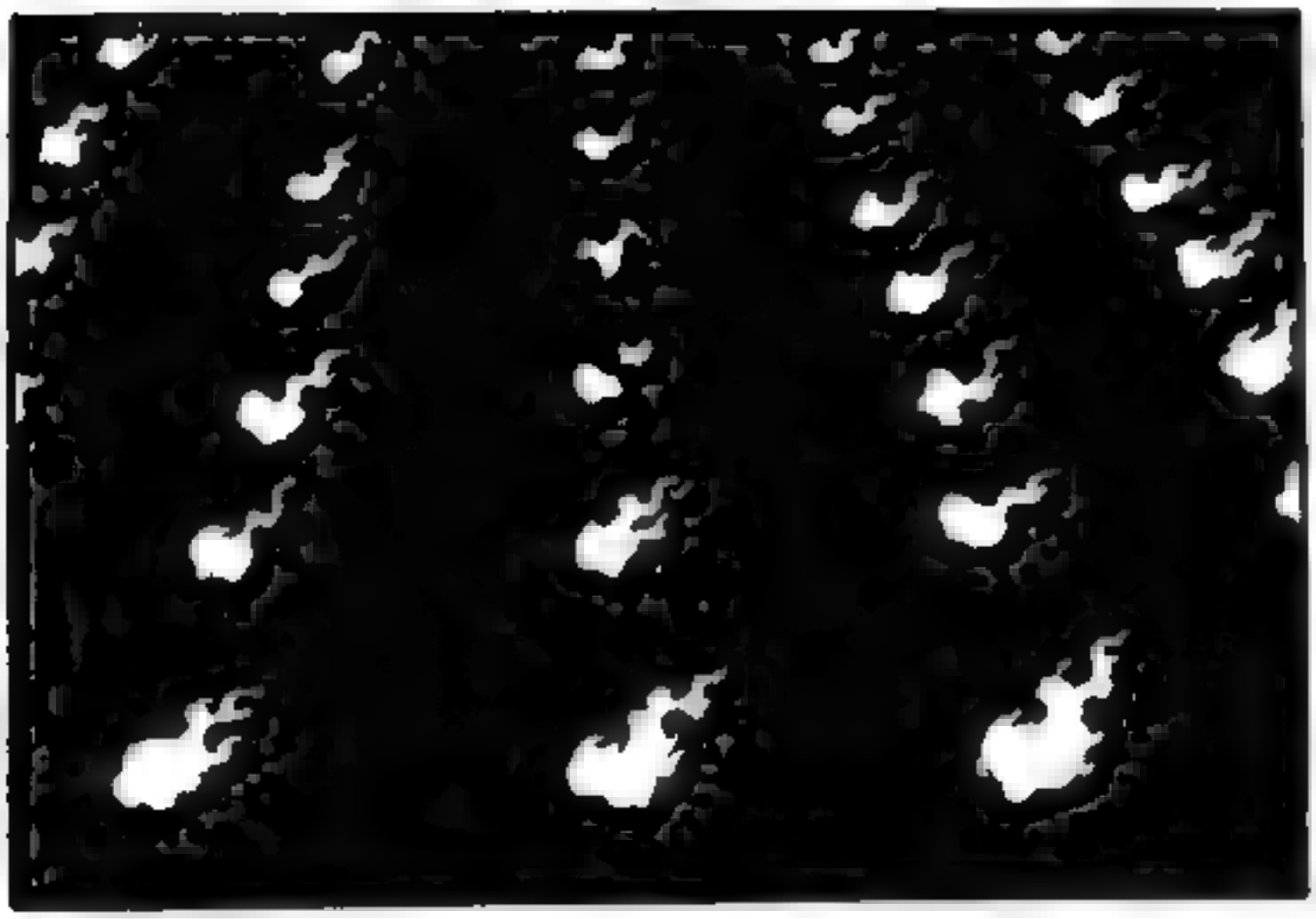

THE ENEMY MUST HAVE HID SOME OF THEIR FORCES OUTSIDE THE CITY WALLS FROM THE START!



BRING ME MY HORSE!

OUR FORCES HAVE BEEN SURPRISED FROM THREE DIRECTIONS, CHANCELLOR! IT IS TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO REMAIN HERE ANY LONGER!

WE WILL ACCOMPANY YOU AS BODY-GUARDS, SIR.



AHH!

I WILL GO CHECK.
WHO IS LEADING THOSE TROOPS?

THAT'S ODD. TIANSHUI'S GARRISON SHOULD NOT BE SO LARGE.

I NEVER IMAGINED WE WOULD COME ACROSS SUCH A LARGE ENEMY FORCE HERE...

THERE ARE PROBABLY MORE TORCHES THAN MEN IN THAT FORMATION. THE ENEMIES ARE TRYING TO PLAY WITH OUR MINDS.

JIANG WEI!?
CHANCELLOR, I BELIEVE THEY ARE LED BY JIANG WEI.

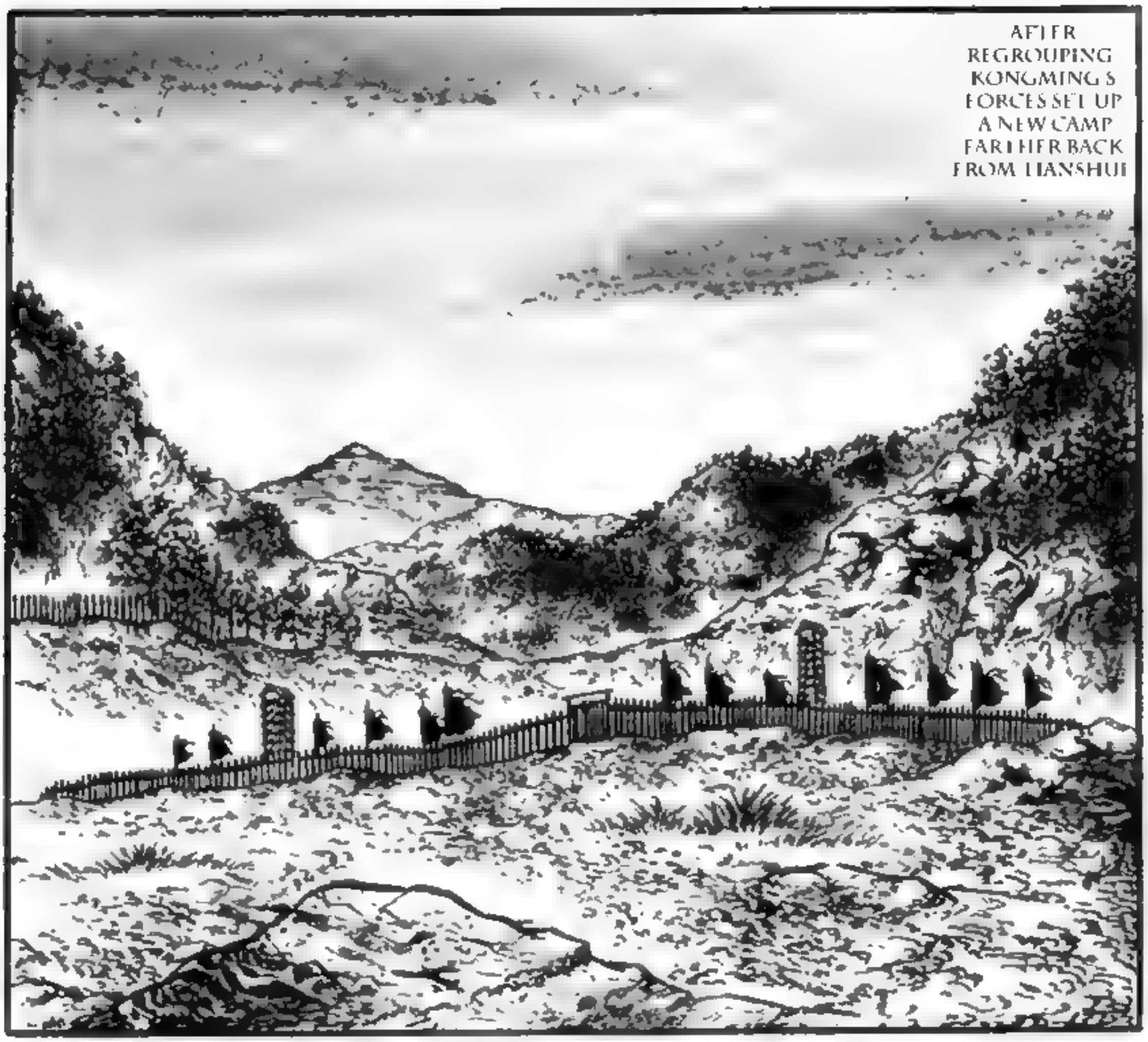
AH!

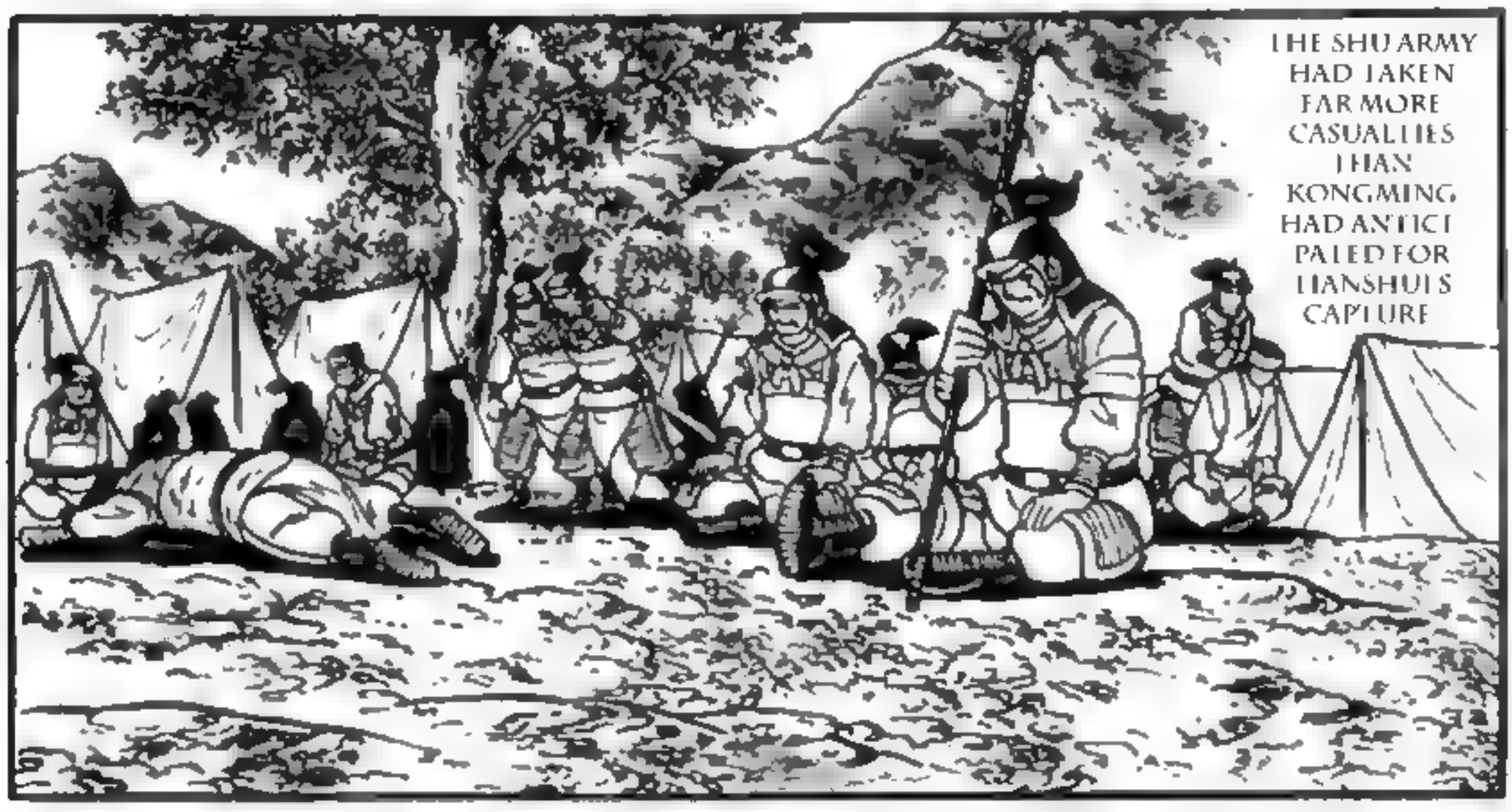
MOST IMPRESSIVE...

THIS WAS THE FIRST DIRECT LOSS THAT KONGMING HAD EVER EXPERIENCED

I THINK THEY MAY HAVE BECOME AWARE OF OUR PRESENCE!

LET US RETREAT FURTHER BACK AND REGROUP!


AFTER
REGROUPING
KONGMING'S
FORCES SET UP
A NEW CAMP
FARTHER BACK
FROM TIANSHUI


THE SHU ARMY
HAD TAKEN
FAR MORE
CASUALTIES
THAN
KONGMING
HAD ANTICI
PATED FOR
TIANSHUI'S
CAPTURE

THE SUCCESS OF THIS ENTIRE CAMPAIGN IS FURTHER JEOPARD-IZED WITH EACH DAY I WASTE HERE...

JUST WHAT AM I DOING? HOW CAN I EVEN THINK OF CONQUERING WEI WHEN JIANG WEI ALONE IS GIVING ME ENOUGH TROUBLE...

HMMM...

ESTRANGEMENT

SHE SHOULD STILL BE IN JICHENG.
WHERE DOES JIANG WEI'S MOTHER LIVE?
SHANGGUI IS USED AS A SUPPLY DEPOT FOR TIANSHUI. IF IT IS TAKEN, THE GARRISON AT TIANSHUI CAN BE STARVED OUT.
ARE THERE ANY OTHER POINTS OF INTERST AROUND HERE?
JICHENG, HMM...

YES, SIR.

THANK YOU FOR ANSWERING ALL MY QUESTIONS. YOU MAY EXCUSE YOURSELF NOW

HM...

JUST LET HIM ENTER THE CITY?

EXACTLY.

YES, SIR.

ATTACK JICHENG, BUT IF JIANG WEI APPEARS, FEIGN DEFEAT SO THAT HE STAYS TO DEFEND THE CITY.

WEI YAN.

YES?

YES, SIR.

ZHAO ZILONG, YOU ARE TO DO THE SAME AT SHANGGUI. LET ANY ENEMY FORCE THAT APPEARS ENTER THE CITY.

YOU'RE COMPLETELY SURE?

YES, SIR.

YES, SIR.

WHAT!? KONGMING HAS SENT ARMIES FOR SHANGGUI AND JICHENG!?

SIR, MY MOTHER LIVES IN JICHENG AND I FEAR FOR HER SAFETY. PLEASE GRANT ME TROOPS SO THAT I MAY BOTH DEFEND JICHENG AND MY MOTHER.

I CAN SEE HOW SERIOUS THIS IS FOR A SON AS FILIAL AS YOU.

HMM...

I BEG OF YOU, GOVERNOR! PLEASE GRANT ME PERMISSION TO TEMPORARILY LEAVE HERE!

VERY WELL.

RIGHT AWAY, SIR.

LIANG QIAN, I WANT YOU TO ALSO LEAVE HERE AND DEFEND SHANGGU.

THANK YOU, SIR!

AHH!

PREPARE TO ATTACK!

SHU TROOPS!

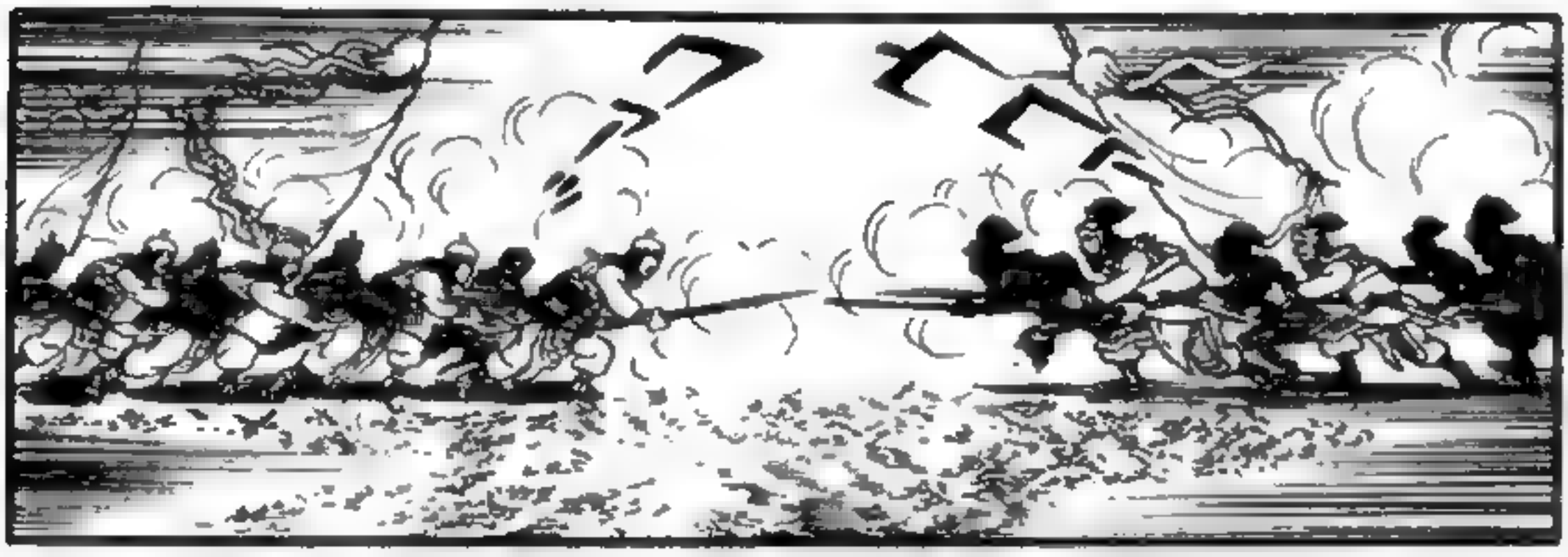
CLASH

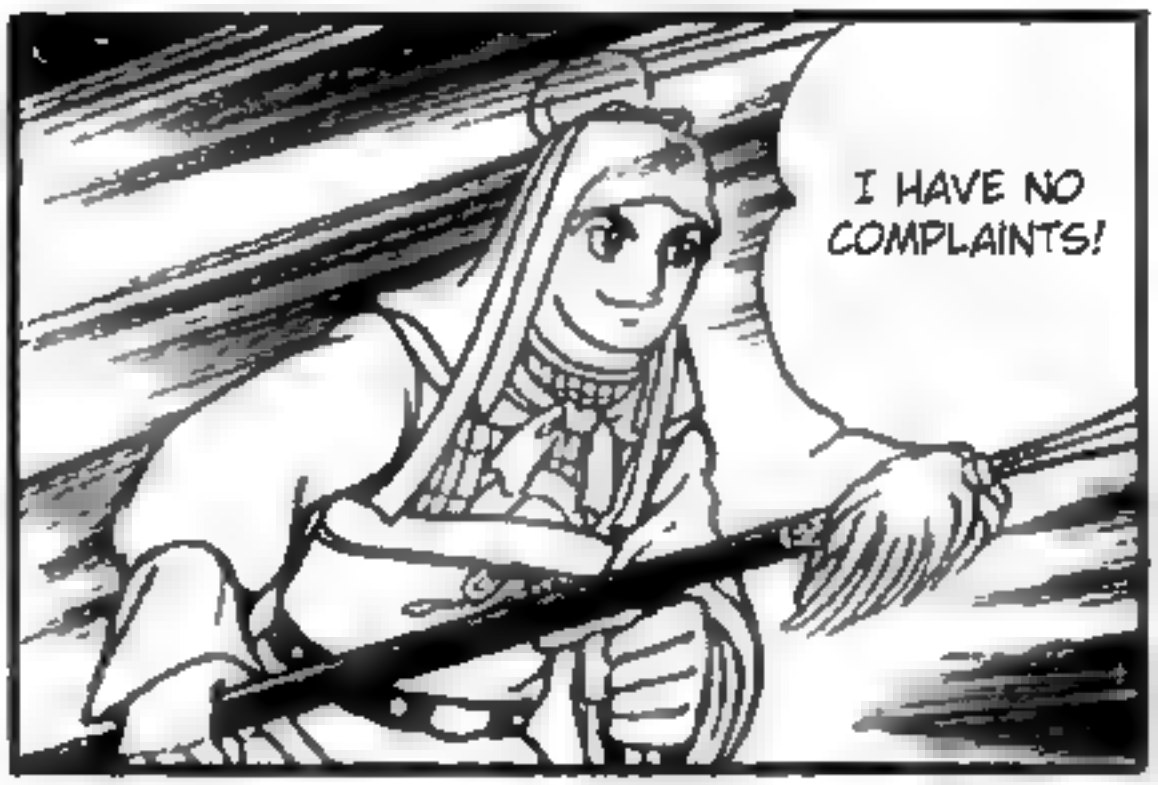
THAT MUST BE JIANG WEI!

GENERAL, ENEMY ALERT!

K"
K"
K"

YES, SIR!
FIGHT UNTIL THE SIGNAL, THEN CLEAR THE WAY SO THE ENEMIES CAN ENTER JICHENG!




I HAVE NO COMPLAINTS!

I, WEI YAN, WILL FIGHT YOU!

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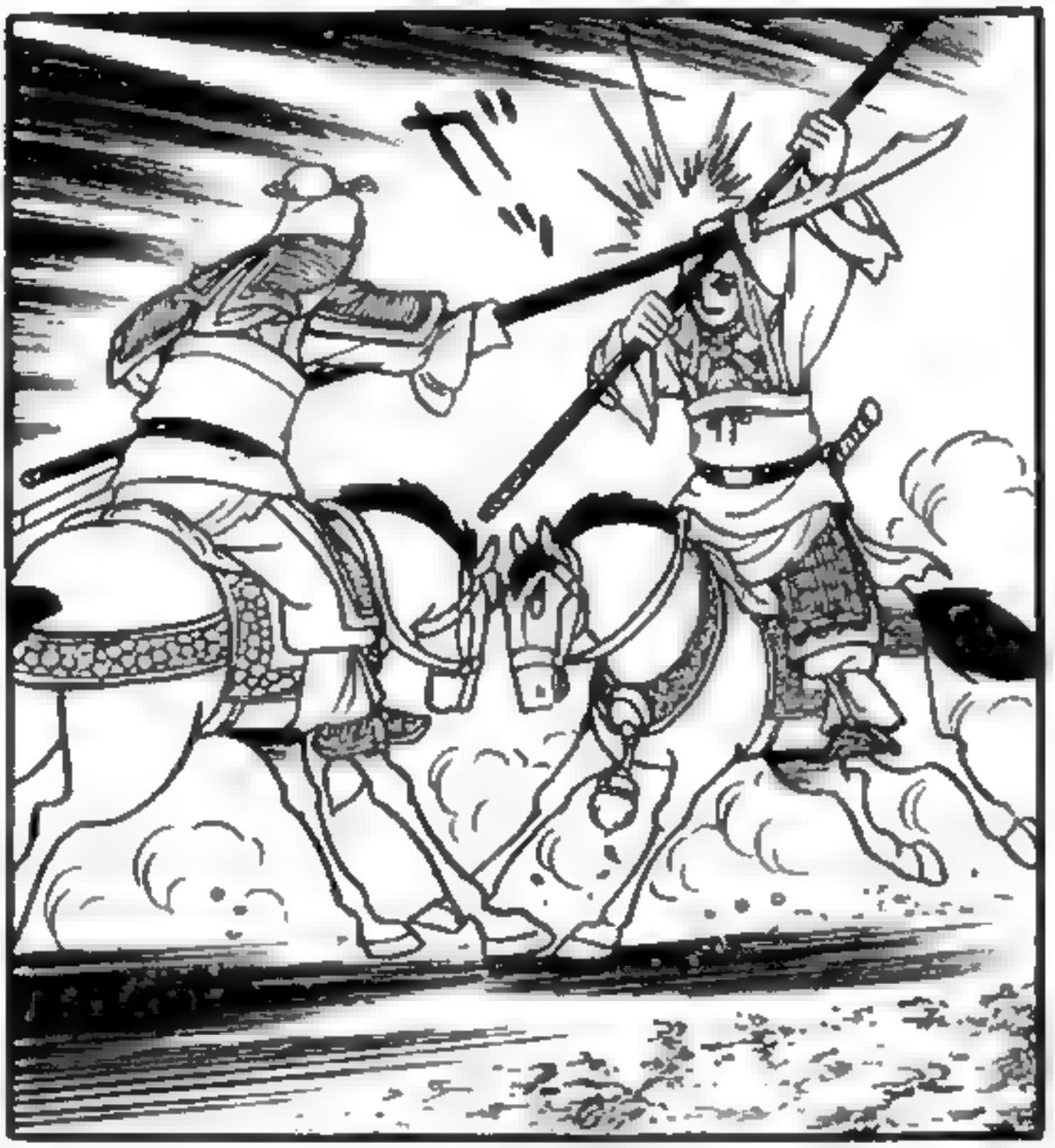
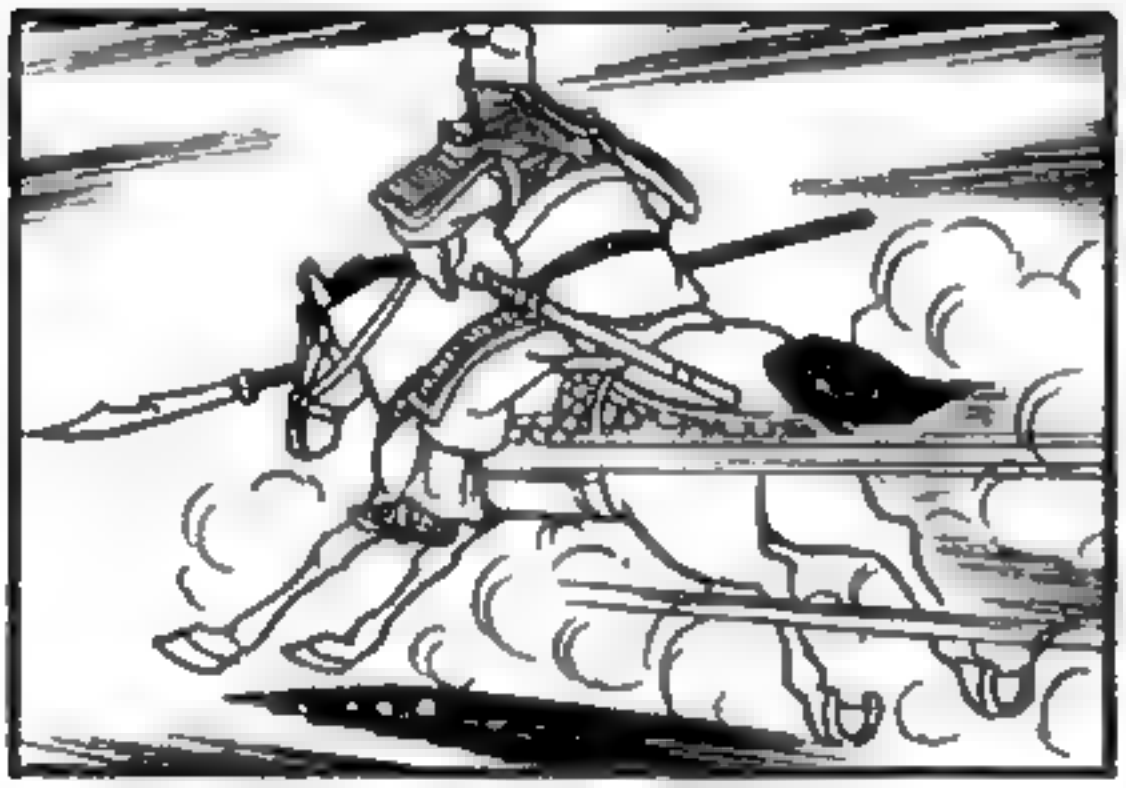
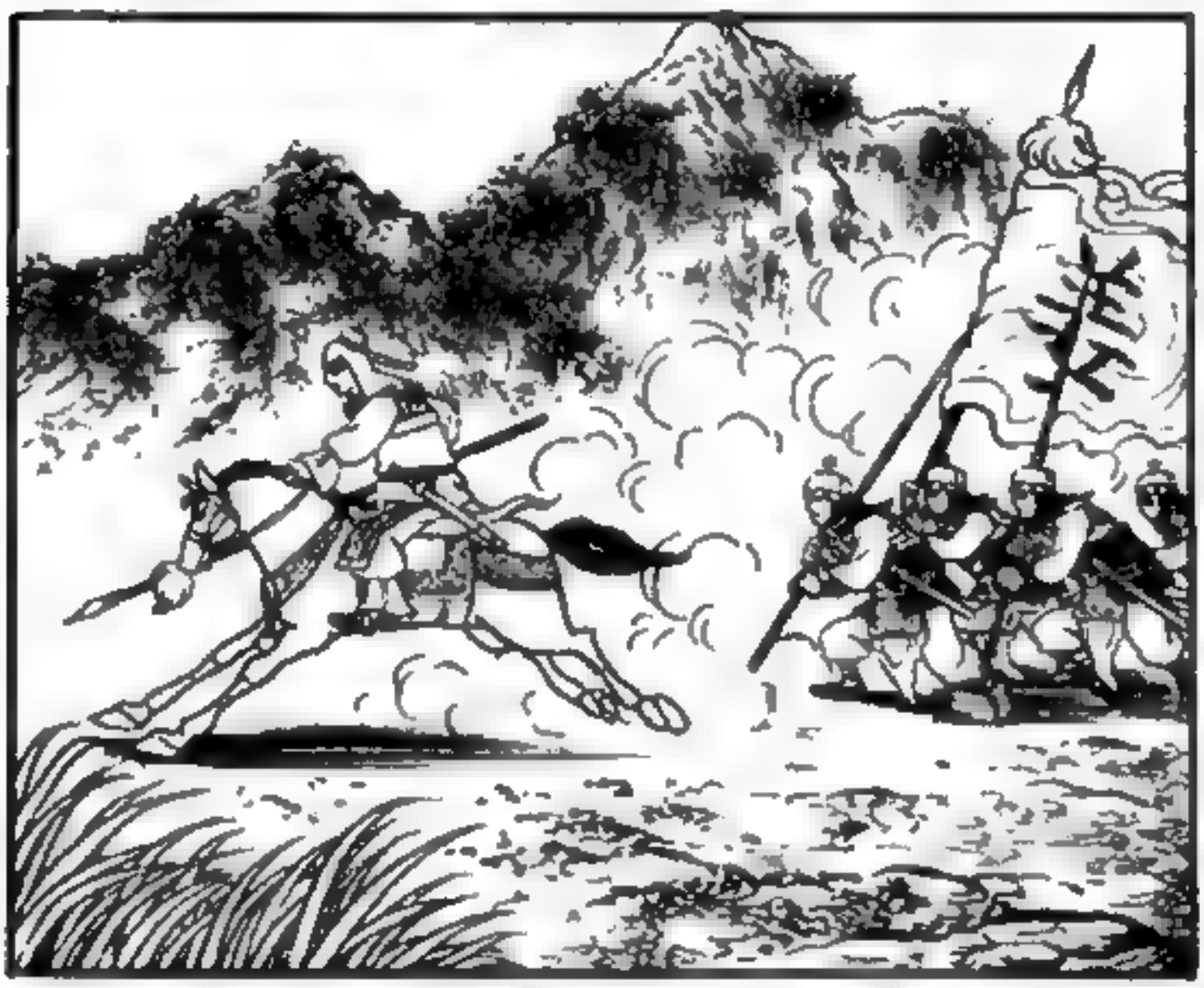


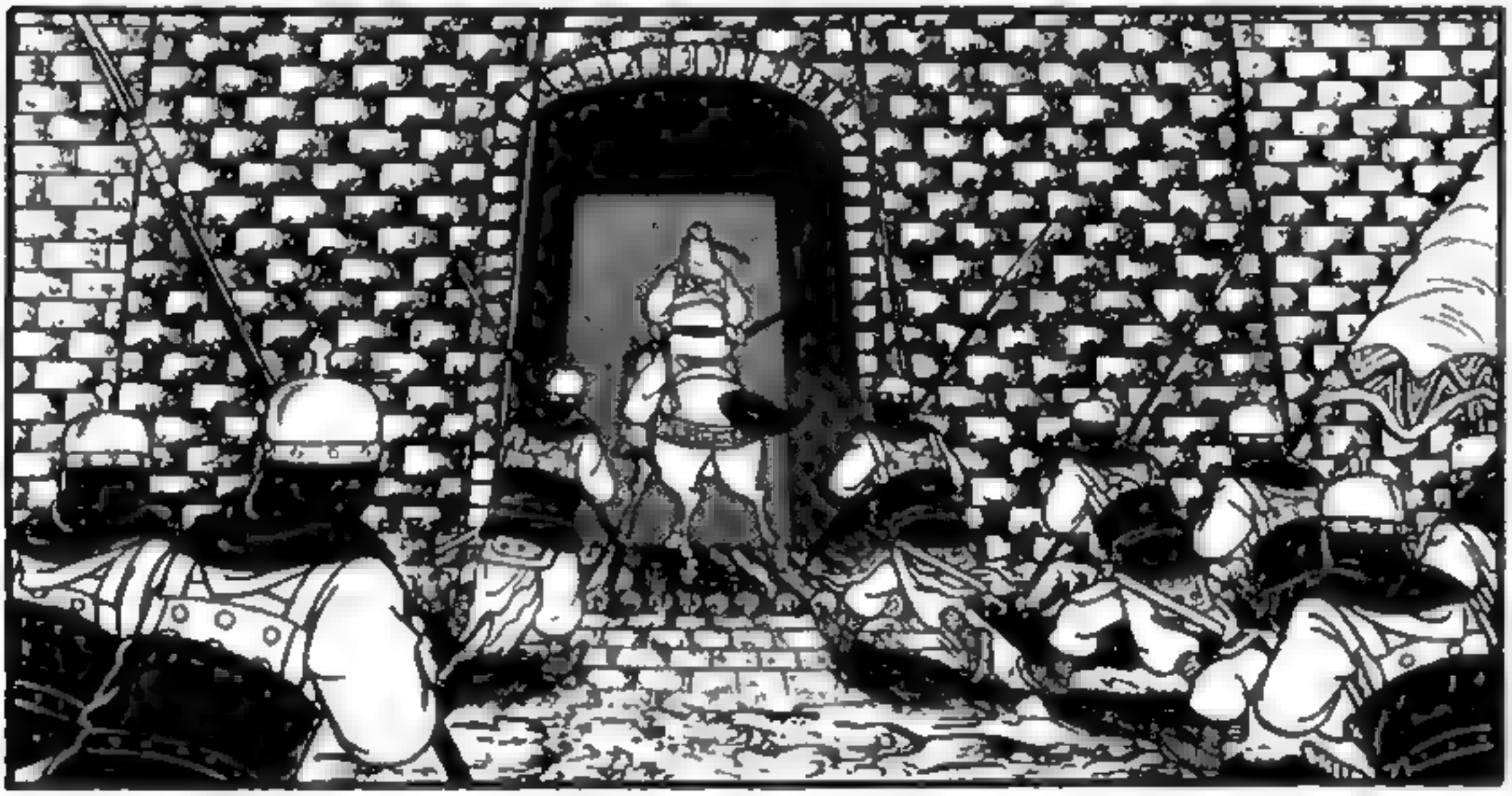
HE REALLY IS AS SKILLED AS ZHAO ZILONG SAID...



RETREAT!
RETREAT!



NOW'S OUR
CHANCE!
HEAD INSIDE
THE CITY!



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GOOD, SEND HIM IN.

I'VE BROUGHT XIAHOU MAO AS YOU REQUESTED, CHANCELLOR.

DO YOU STILL VALUE YOUR LIFE?

YESTERDAY, I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM JIANG WEI, WHO IS CURRENTLY DEFENDING JICHENG.

Y-YES, PLEASE SPARE MY LIFE, SIR!

THUS, I'M THINKING OF SPARING YOU IF YOU PROMISE TO SEE THROUGH THAT JIANG WEI KEEPS HIS PROMISE.

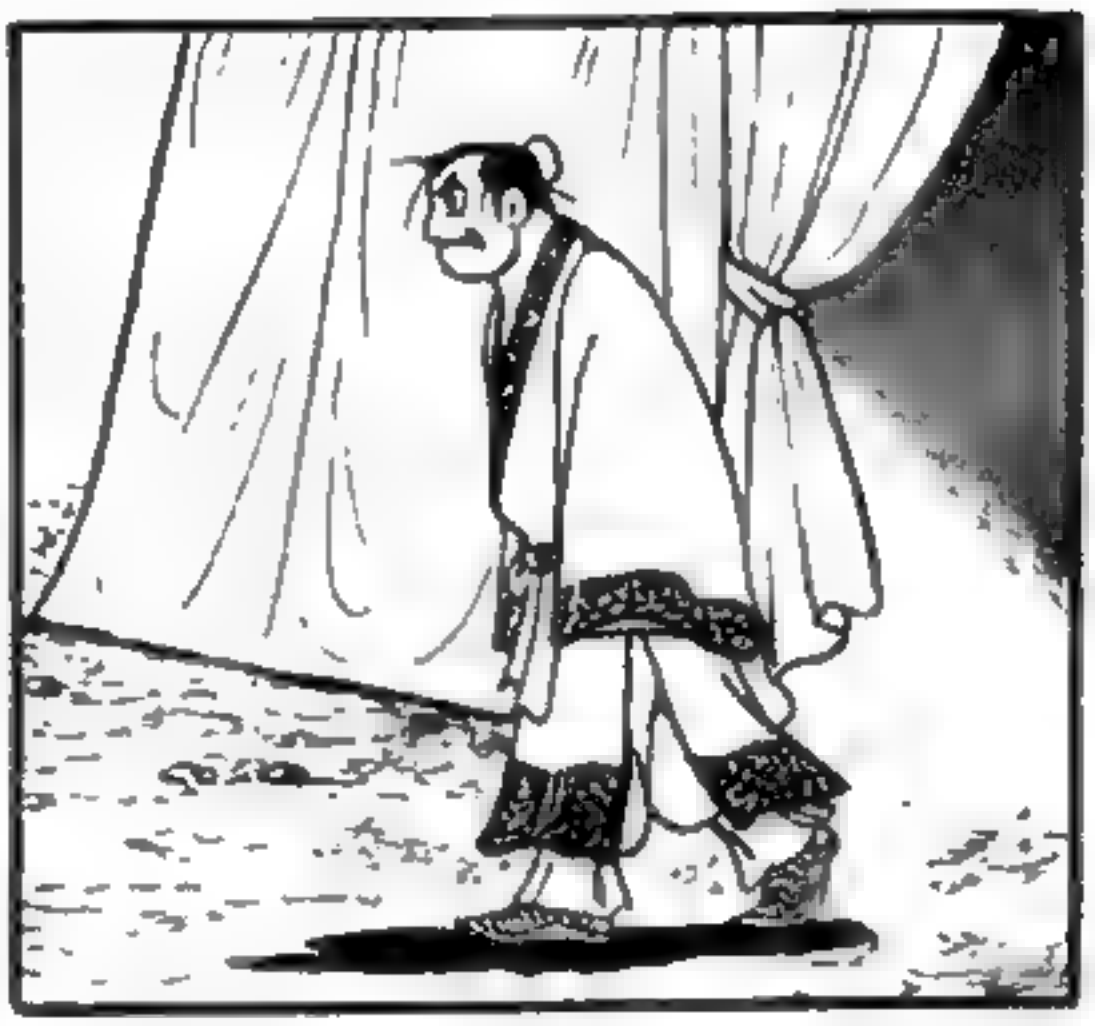
HE SAYS HE WILL ONLY AGREE TO SURRENDER IF THE IMPERIAL SON-IN-LAW WERE RELEASED IN RETURN...

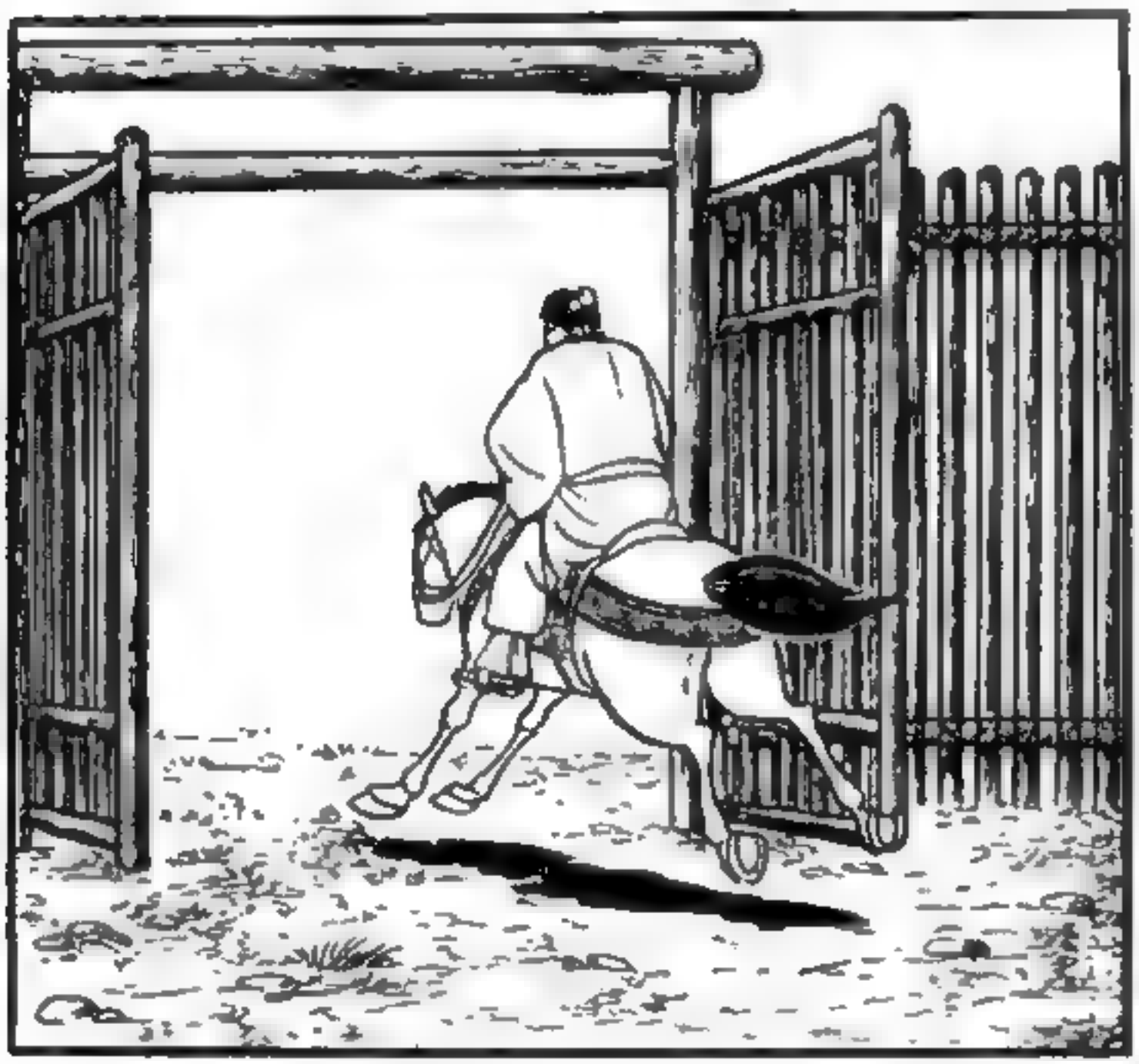
YES, SIR.

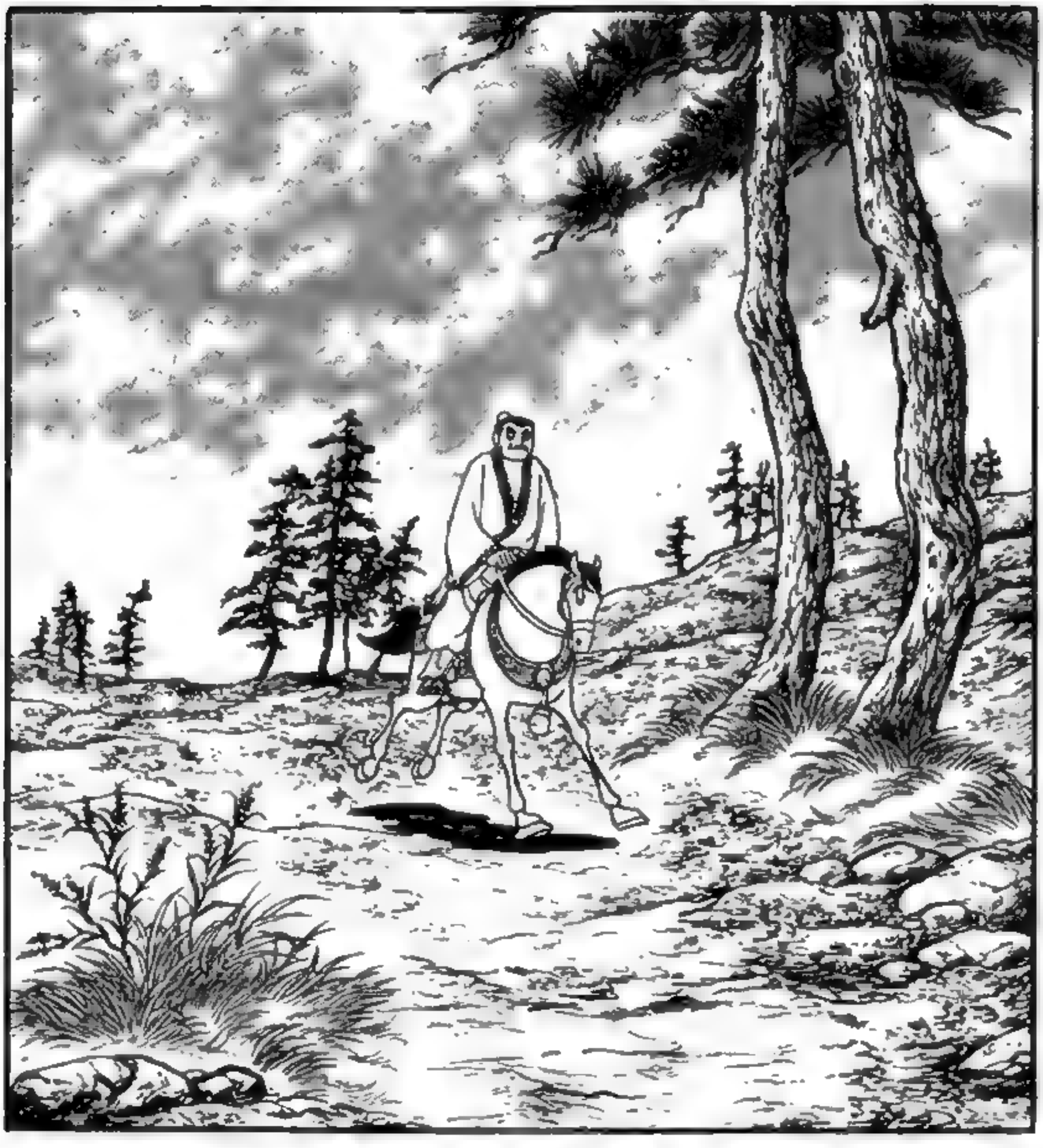
GOOD, THEN YOU MAY HEAD FOR JICHENG AT ONCE.

YES, OF COURSE..

THANK YOU.
TAKE THIS HORSE, SIR.







HM?

JICHENG? WHY ARE YOU FLEEING FROM JICHENG? IT SHOULD STILL BE SAFE, NO?

WE ARE REFUGEES FROM JICHENG.

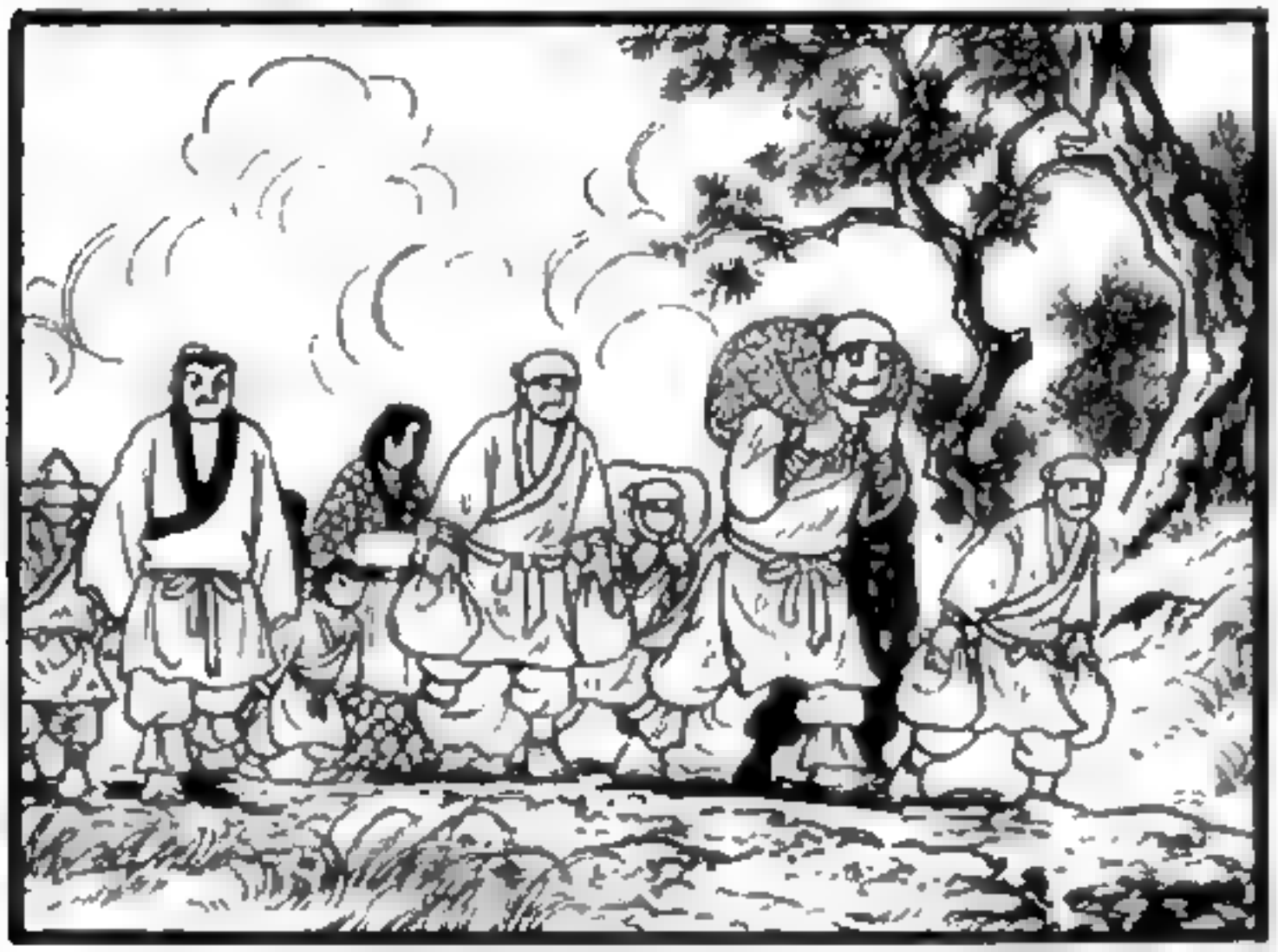
WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

JIANG WEI SURRENDERED ALREADY!?

JIANG WEI, WHO WAS HEADING JICHENG'S DEFENSE, SURRENDERED TO THE SHU FORCES OF WEI YAN. AS SHU SOLDIERS HAVE BEGUN LOOTING THE CITY, WE DECIDED TO FLEE.

I BETTER HEAD TO TIANSHUI.

THEN THERE'S NO POINT IN HEADING TO JICHENG...



HM?

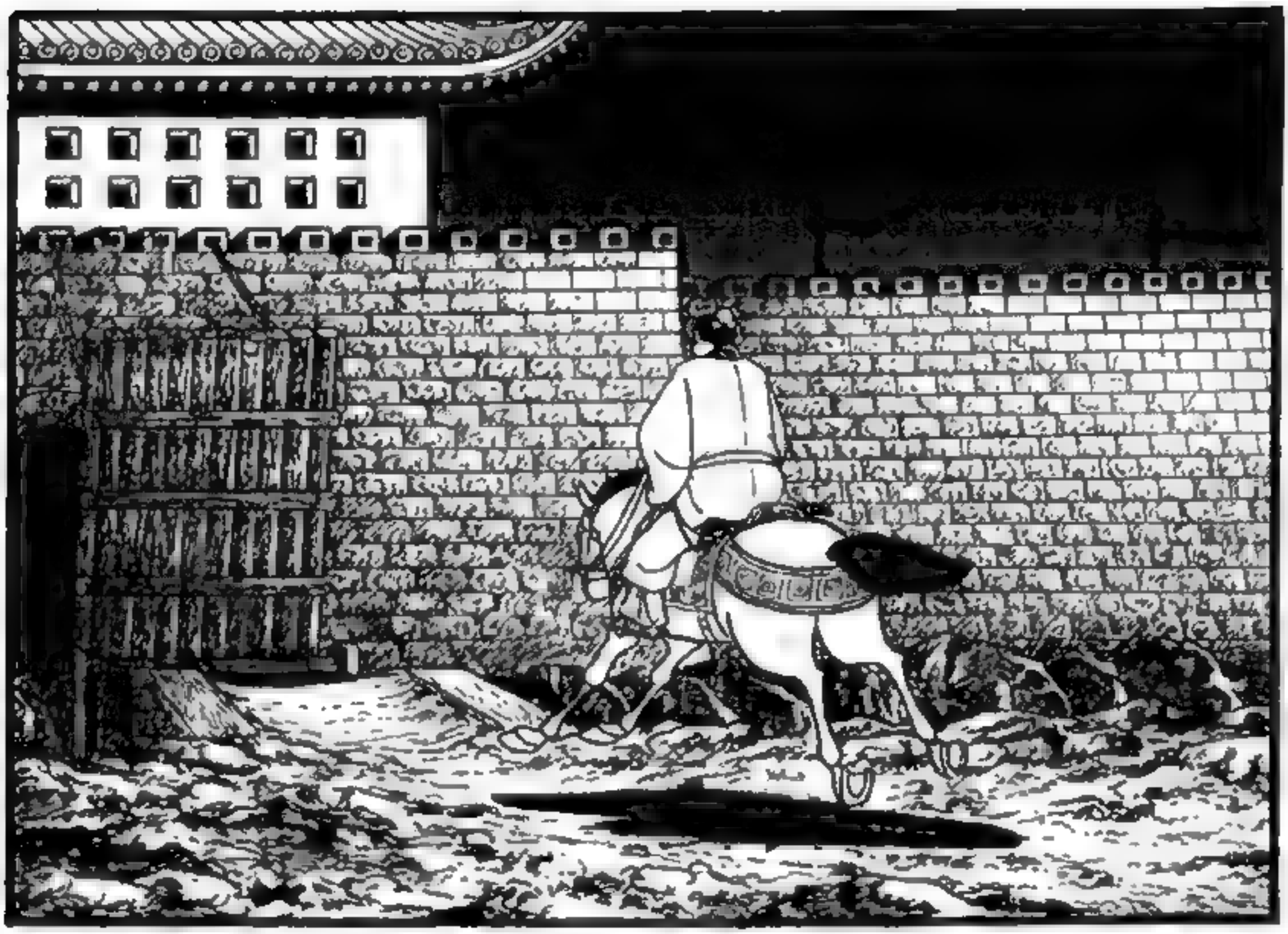
WE ARE JICHENG LOCALS.

AND WHERE ARE YOU REFUGEES FROM?

I SEE.

IT'S BEST FOR YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM JICHENG.

SHU TROOPS ARE PILLAGING OUR HOMES AND RAZING OUR FARMLANDS.



XIAHOU MAO!?

OPEN THE GATES!

I AM COMMANDER XIAHOU MAO! OPEN THE GATES!

AH, SO YOU'RE THE GOVERNOR HERE? I AM XIAHOU MAO.

I AM MA ZUN, THE GOVERNOR OF TIANSHUI.

YES, SIR.

POUR ME SOME TEA AS MY THROAT IS PARCHED.

YES, AND I WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE IN THE AFTERMATH.

I HEARD NANAN RECENTLY FELL TO THE ENEMIES. IS THAT TRUE, SIR?

JIANG WEI SAID WHAT!?

BUT APPARENTLY JIANG WEI, WHO WAS BESIEGED AT JICHENG, AGREED TO SURRENDER IF I WERE RELEASED. THUS, KONGMING LET ME GO TO JICHENG TO SEE JIANG WEI KEEPS HIS PROMISE.

THE THING IS, JIANG WEI SURRENDERED THE CITY EVEN BEFORE I GOT THERE!

JUST GO OUTSIDE AND ASK THE THRONG OF REFUGESS STREAM-ING OUT FROM JICHENG THEN!

THERE MUST BE A MISTAKE! JIANG WEI WOULD NEVER SURRENDER!

ON MY WAY HERE, I MET MANY JICHENG REFUGEES TELLING ME THAT SHU TROOPS HAVE BEGUN LOOTING THE CITY AND NEARBY VILLAGES.

PERHAPS HE ONLY PRETENDED TO SURRENDER, SO AS TO GUARANTEE YOUR RELEASE.

YES, ME TOO.

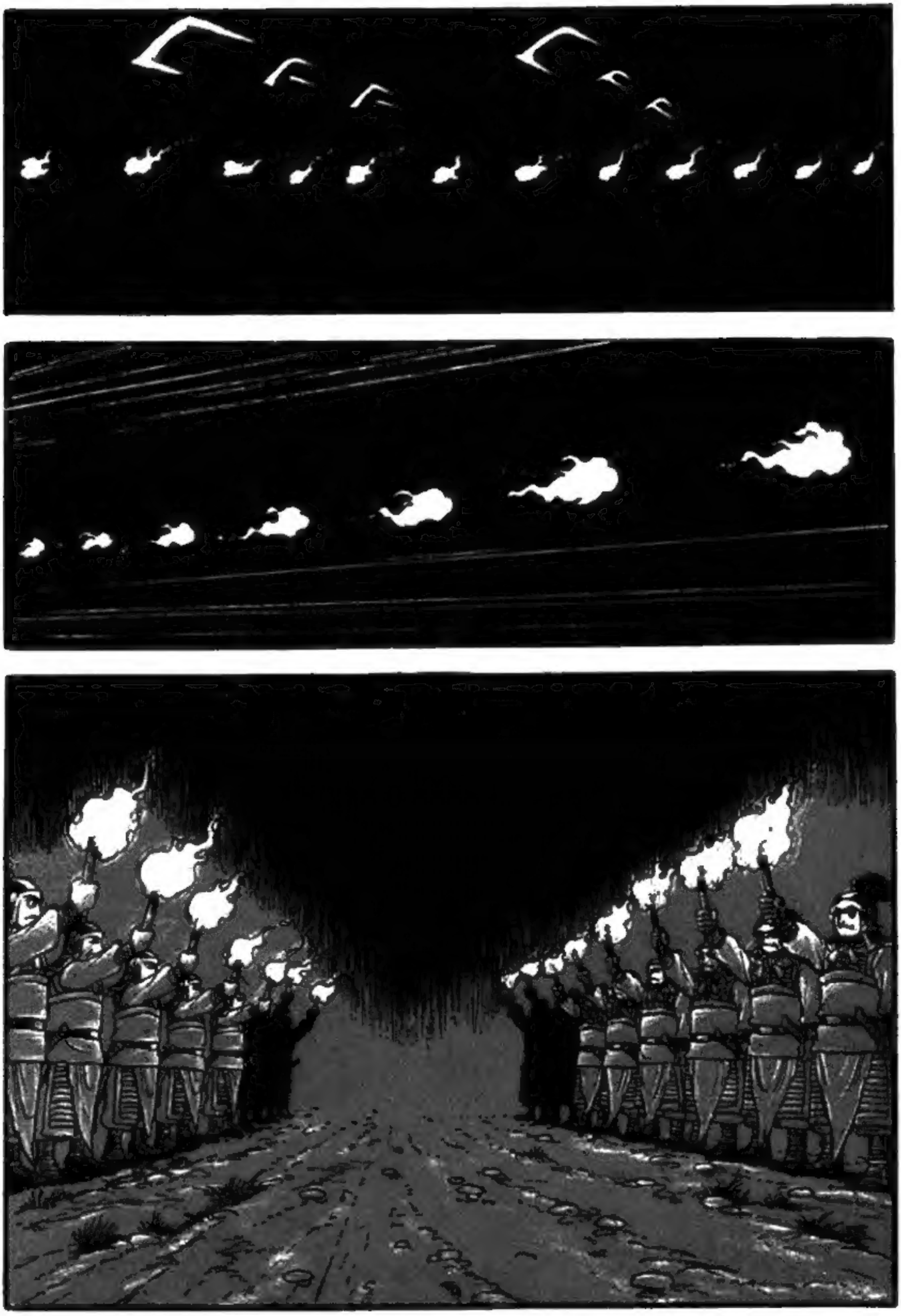
THIS IS ALL QUITE HARD TO BELIEVE, SIR.

THEN WHY WOULD HE SURRENDER BEFORE I GOT THERE!? IN ANY CASE, THE FACT IS THAT HE'S NOW SURRENDERED TO SHU!

WHAT!?

SHU TROOPS HAVE APPEARED BEFORE THE WALLS!

AHH!



THE MAN WHO RODE TOWARDS THE WALLS WAS NONE OTHER THAN JIANG WEI.

TRANSLATED BY HOX

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電子書籍版

三国志

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横山 光輝

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